SALIVATION EXPLODED:

OR, A

PRACTICAL ESSAY

ON THE

VENEREAL DISEASE,

FULLY DEMONSTRATING THE

Inefficacy of SALIVATION, and recommending an approved SUCCEDANEUM.

ILLUSTRATED

With Some remarkable CASES, which had withstood Three, Four or Five Salivations, and were afterwards cured, by that safe, easy and certain Method, the Alterative One.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A Dissertation on Gleets and Weaknesses, Seminal as well as Venereal, in both Sexes; with Observations on Diseases of the Urethra, and the Use of Prophylactics.

By CHARLES SWIFT, SURGEON.

Opprime dum nova sunt, subiti mala semina morbi,
nam mora dat vires. OVID.

THE NINTH EDITION.

LONDON:
Printed for S. BLADON, No. 13, Pater-noster Row; R. FAULDER, New-Bond Street; R. WESTLEY, opposite St. Clement's Church, Strand.

MDCC XCV.

[Price Two Shillings.]

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NOtwithſtanding the number and variety of publications upon the preſent ſubject, the Author flatters himſelf that his obſervations (the reſult of much experience) will not be unacceptable to the Faculty; eſpecially the junior part of it, to whoſe peruſal this Eſſay is particularly recommended.

Common caſes, or ſuch as daily occur, and are not attended with any unuſual ſymptoms are purpoſely omitted; and to avoid prolixity, a few only of the other kind are inſerted, they being thought ſufficient to elucidate the ſubject.

Recent caſes are likewiſe pretermitted, in order to obviate the idea of relapſes, which even the moſt impartial reader might otherwiſe have ſuggeſted.

Parliament Street,
June 26th, 1780.

A

PRACTICAL ESSAY

ON THE

VENEREAL DISEASE, &c.

THE Venereal Diſeaſe, beyond all others, having by its peculiar virulence and frequent attacks upon the human body, made the moſt alarming depredations therein, no temporal ſubject, I preſume, ought ſooner to claim our attention, than the thorough inveſtigation and ſpeedy ſubjection of ſo formidable an enemy.—Many and various have been the opinions of the learned, relative to the time and place of its firſt appearance—this circumſtance has afforded an ample field for diſputation to both ancients and moderns; of whom ſome the moſt eminent, at different periods, have very ingeniouſly and candidly treated upon the ſubject: notwithſtanding which, the matter is yet doubtful and likely to remain ſo. A knowledge of the preciſe origin of the diſeaſe muſt however appear of but little importance, when put in competition with that of the moſt effectual remedy for the radical

cure of it. I ſhall therefore leave ſuch controverſies to thoſe who are fonder of, or may be better qualified to adjuſt them than myſelf, and reſt contented, with recommending the moſt radical and eaſy method of removing ſo loathſome a diſeaſe. This mode of cure is the moſt gentle and efficacious, as will appear in the following pages: it will ſtand the teſt of the ſtricteſt ſcrutiny, being founded on the broad baſis of long experience and uninterrupted ſucceſs. In ſupport of this aſſertion, I ſhall produce ſome very remarkable caſes, ſelected from many hundreds, where the uſual or general modes of cure had proved abortive.

Knowledge of the Diſeaſe

It has been frequently obſerved, that the knowledge of a diſeaſe is half its cure; in no inſtance can I ſuppoſe this adage to have been more fully verified than in the Venereal Diſeaſe, which, Proteus like, appears in ſo many different forms, that very often it will require no ſmall ſhare of judgment and experience to diſtinguiſh it from ſome other diſtemper, whoſe ſymptoms it may reſemble in many reſpects, or with

which

which it may in reality be combined. This being the caſe we muſt not wonder at the many errors daily committed by the ignorant, or inexperienced in the profeſſion.

ALMOST innumerable have been the inſtances of reputed rheumatiſms, nervous head-achs, wandering gouts, ſcurvies, declines, conſumptions, &c. &c. which, upon a minute inveſtigation, have been proved to be venereal. A happy circumſtance, when this diſcovery is made early enough to ſave the patient from an untimely grave; but alas! how frequently does the reverſe happen?

THIS melancholy obſervation is particularly corroborated in the great number of atrophies, or conſumptions, by which the inhabitants of this iſland are many of them ſuppoſed to be deſtroyed. This fatality has generally been aſcribed to the climate, but I am firmly perſuaded, that, upon a ſtrict and impartial enquiry, many other cauſes may be aſſigned; and amongſt them, Venus will be found to have had no

ſmall ſhare. I am induced to be of this opinion from the many inſtances that have fallen under my own immediate inſpection, where patients, after having been pronounced to be in the laſt ſtages of a conſumption, and given over as loſt, have been perfectly reſtored by the uſe of antivenereals. A circumſtance of ſuch importance, moſt certainly merits the attention of every medical practitioner. Should this admonition take the deſired effect, I ſhall experience the greateſt ſatisfaction in having rendered ſuch an eſſential ſervice to the community.

In the following ſheets it will evidently appear, that the Venereal Diſeaſe, in every ſtate or ſtage, from the mildeſt to the moſt inveterate, may be perfectly, eaſily, and ſafely cured, without ſalivation; and that the patient, although labouring under a confirmed pox, will not be confined within doors a ſingle day during the whole time he may be taking ſuch medicines as will effect a radical cure. I ſhall likewiſe demonſtrate that gleets of every denomination

are

are curable, provided the origin of each be duly inveſtigated, and in conſequence thereof, a ſuitable remedy not only applied, but regularly perſevered in for a length of time, proportionable to the cauſe: to the want of that perſeverance, in my opinion, may often be aſcribed the want of ſucceſs in the general treatment of gleets; for I do not recollect (amongſt the great number and variety of my patients for ſeveral years paſt) three caſes which did not give way, or were not cured, by properly and ſtrictly perſiſting in the uſe of injections or bougies, and ſome internal alteratives.

To prove not only the inexpediency, but the inefficacy of ſalivation in venereal maladies, I ſhall produce ſeveral caſes, in which its effects were merely palliative; in other words, afforded only a temporary relief although repeated even to a fourth or fifth time; after which the ſame patients (notwithſtanding the violent ſhock, and manifeſt injury their conſtitutions had thereby ſuſtained) were perfectly and radically cured by that eaſy gentle method, which I mean to recommend, namely, the alterative one.

For argument ſake only, ſuppoſe we admit that ſalivation is efficient and might be depended upon; what man in his ſenſes but would give the preference to the method here propoſed? when he conſiders how extremely diſguſting and painful the proceſs of ſalivation is univerſally allowed to be; the conſequent confinement indiſpenſably neceſſary therein, and the many other diſagreeables that generally or frequently ſucceed it; ſuch as deſtruction of the teeth and gums, and the fœtid or ſtinking breath thereby occaſioned; the great relaxation of the ſalivary glands, or an eroſion of their excretory ducts, producing a copious troubleſome flow of ſaliva, perhaps for the remainder of life; together with the derangement of the whole frame, in ſuch a degree as ſeldom to be got the better of, even by thoſe who may have been originally poſſeſſed of the beſt ſtamina, or ſtrongeſt conſtitution.

All theſe circumſtances duly conſidered, it is rather ſurpriſing that ſalivation has not long ſince been univerſally exploded; the only aſſignable reaſon muſt be the want of a proper

proper ſuccedaneum: that, however, very happily for mankind, can no longer be pleaded in excuſe, as the alterative method is daily gaining ground from the following very cogent reaſons, viz. the operation of proper alteratives being ſo extremely mild and gentle as to admit of being ſafely adminiſtered at any time or ſeaſon, to perſons of all ages, and of each ſex: to pregnant women almoſt the whole time of geſtation, even to the laſt month, from which happy circumſtance, the fœtus and its mother both receive a cure at the ſame time.

Two other very material advantages are to be derived from the uſe of alteratives; firſt, the certainty of cure, even in the worſt, the moſt inveterate caſes, where many repeated ſalivations have proved ineffectual; ſecondly, not the leaſt confinement being requiſite throughout the whole courſe, which to the mercantile part of the world is a circumſtance of no little importance, the patient being able to tranſact buſineſs as well in the open air as elſewhere, and there being no other reſtriction or alteration

teration reſpecting his diet, than the omiſſion of acids, he will not be under any apprehenſion of a diſcovery taking place in the family.

Another particular in favour of theſe medicines is, that contrary to the effects of moſt others, they will increaſe the appetite, and thereby accelerate the cure, during the performance of which the patient's food cannot be of too nutritious a nature, inſomuch that meat may be allowed twice or thrice per day, in preference to gruels, ptyſans, or ſlops of any kind.

The only diſadvantage that attends the alterative method, is this; patients being at large the whole time, and capable of purſuing either buſineſs or pleaſure, ſome are apt to prefer the latter, and very frequently not only neglect taking the medicine, but commit various exceſſes, and ſometimes contract freſh infections, while we are endeavouring to remove the old one. Indeed, ſome have been frank enough to confeſs, that a ſpecies of œconomy had given riſe to theſe irregularities, from a ſuppoſition

that no additional expence would be incurred, they thought it therefore the propereſt time to gratify ſuch inclinations, not conſidering that violent exertions of the parts affected muſt certainly procraſtinate the cure, ſhould they even be fortunate enough to eſcape an increaſe of the venereal virus.

SALIVATION has none of theſe obſtacles to combat with, for when once a man has completely immerſed himſelf into that delightful ſtate, it will ſeldom, if ever happen, that he will, ſo circumſtanced, be poſſeſſed of either ability or inclination to deviate from the moſt rigid injunctions that may be impoſed by his doctors, medicinal or divine. In ſupport of this opinion nothing more will be neceſſary than a recital of ſome few of the concomitant ſymptoms or conſtant attendants on a perfect ſalivation: namely, a tumefaction of the head, face, and throat, to a great degree, with much pain and inflammation therein; thus the tongue frequently becomes too large for the mouth, which by this time is

excoriated and extremely tender, together with the gums, tonſils, and all the neighbouring parts; in fine, the whole mouth and its appendages become one foul ulcer, from which iſſues a ſtench that may be better conceived than deſcribed, accompanied with a ptyaliſm or ſpitting, in quantity from two to ſix pints in the twenty-four hours; which agreeable proceſs is to be continued ſome weeks, and in the courſe of a few months, perhaps, repeated again and again.

THE ſame advantages as the foregoing, has the old method of curing claps by mercurials and draſtic purges, which were generally repeated every two or three days for a conſiderable length of time, till the diſcharge put on a more benign aſpect; or the patience, or ſtrength of the patient being exhauſted, occaſioned a diſcontinuance thereof.

FROM theſe premiſes we muſt readily infer that a perſon thus conſtantly haraſſed by ſtrong rough medicines, could have little reliſh or inclination to tranſgreſs the laws of ſobriety.

Con-

Conſideratis conſiderandis, every impartial man moſt certainly will prefer the alterative mode of cure, to that by ſalivation.

HAVING premiſed thus much, now let us turn our thoughts to the moſt eligible means of obtaining a radical cure for this prevalent diſeaſe, it having often with great truth been obſerved, that as nothing can be done with greater facility, than to cavil or find fault, therefore no merit will be derived from ſuch a procedure, unleſs at the ſame time it ſhall be accompanied with ſome plan or ſcheme more likely to effect the purpoſe in queſtion. To obviate this reflection, I ſhall not only propoſe ſuch a remedy as will be moſt likely to anſwer, but ſhall alſo produce, in ſupport of it, ſome caſes which (from the peculiar ſucceſs attending them) will go near to call in queſtion the veracity of the man who records them: be that as it may, ſuch an idea ſhall not prevent my giving a faithful relation of them. Before, however, we enter upon that part of the buſineſs, I ſhall make ſome obſervations on the means by which thoſe events took place.

VERY numerous and different are the preſcriptions which at various periods have been recommended, as fully competent to ſubdue the venereal poiſon; amongſt the great variety offered for this ſalutary purpoſe, many are diametrically oppoſite to each other; advocates however, were not wanting to extol their manifold virtues: on theſe occaſions, both the vegetable and mineral kingdoms were thoroughly ranſacked and attentively examined, and many of their properties aſcertained by a ſeries of ingenious experiments; and even at the preſent period, we are ſometimes under the neceſſity of having recourſe to both, in the reduction of ſo powerful an opponent as the venereal diſeaſe. Be it remembered however, that vegetables alone, when properly prepared, will effect a cure in many caſes, although in others it muſt be acknowledged that minerals will likewiſe be required. The gums will ſome of them be found of ſingular uſe, particularly camphor, in every ſtage of the diſeaſe, from a gonorrhœa to a confirmed lues; in the former it will greatly contribute to alleviate the heat

Camphor

of urine, as well as correct the virulence; and in the latter it ought never to be omitted, for ſeveral reaſons; in the firſt place, it is a moſt powerful alterative; in the next, it ſtrengthens the nerves, exhilarates the ſpirits, and, when joined with minerals, fortifies the ſtomach and bowels againſt many of their diſagreeable or pernicious effects. It diffuſes a general warmth throughout the body, and greatly aſſiſts in conducting other medicines towards the cuticular and renal glands.

As to the choice of alterative medicines beſt adapted to the cure of the venereal diſeaſe, I believe none will be found more efficacious than a compoſition of the following, viz. camphor, antimony, and ſulphur: in ſome caſes it may be neceſſary to add both mercury and opium. Theſe muſt be aſſiſted with decoctions of the woods* in quantities ſufficient to attenuate and ſaturate the whole maſs of contaminated juices. Any particular recipe or preſcription of the above, would

* Guaiacum, ſarſaparilla, China ſaſſafras, ſantalum, glycyrrhiza, &c.

be

be of very little uſe, as not only the doſes, but the quantity of each ingredient muſt ſo frequently be either increaſed or diminiſhed, agreeable to the variations of ſymptoms and circumſtances, which ſometimes require even the omiſſion of one or more of thoſe ingredients. The age, ſex, temperament or conſtitution of the patient, as well as the degree of infection, muſt render it indiſpenſably neceſſary to make the alterations above mentioned. Another material circumſtance frequently occurs, namely, the addition of other acrimonious humours; to which particular attention muſt be paid, or we ſhall not ſucceed in our endeavours to remove the venereal one. From hence it muſt evidently appear, that no particular recipe can be invariably relied upon, in this or any other diſeaſe.

THE ſymptoms of a virulent gonorrhœa (commonly termed a clap) are too well known to require any deſcription in this place: let us therefore conſider upon the means moſt eligible for its removal. The cure may be eaſily and ſpeedily effected, if under-

undertaken when the firſt ſymptoms are perceived; particularly that gentle irritation, or trickling ſenſation in the urinary paſſage, which ſo frequently precedes the diſcharge: the diſeaſe, when taken at this ſtage, may be very ſafely removed in the ſpace of two days, by applying medicine immediately to the part affected; this cannot be conveniently done in any other form than that of an injection, which ſhould be compoſed of ſome gentle detergent that will ſtop the further progreſs of the venereal virus, by preventing its abſorption. Chancres may likewiſe be almoſt as ſpeedily removed, provided the remedy be applied at their very firſt appearance.

Scorouth

Injection

Chancre

SHOULD this precaution be omitted, the acrid matter will corrode the parts, and produce ulcerations; conſequently a longer time will be required to effect a cure: and it may be neceſſary to adminiſter internals, to prevent a flow of humours to the part, which might retard the cure, if not entirely fruſtrate our intentions.

IF

If the complaint be not removed in the early ſtages, it will ſoon become confirmed, and then due regard muſt be paid to the patient's habit of body, mode of living, &c.

It is with me a matter of ſurpriſe, that injections have not been in more general practice; as nothing certainly can be more rational, than to apply the remedy to the part affected. The advantages or the reverſe, attending the uſe of them, muſt evidently ariſe from the ingredient of which they are compoſed: no man ſure can be ſo prejudiced as to declare that his objection is merely to that particular mode of conveying a medicine; to ſpeak impartially; if crude, corroſive, indigeſted ulcers in every other part of the body require topical applications, why, in the name of common ſenſe, ſhould they be neglected or omitted in parts naturally ſo very delicate and ſenſible, as the organs of generation are inconteſtably allowed to be? Neglects of this kind are frequently productive of the moſt diſagreeable conſequences; they may, independent of the injuries from abſorption, give riſe to gleets

and

and obſtructions in the urethra, which if not attended to, may terminate fatally.

THE ſtillicidium, or running, is very uncertain as to the time of its appearance; ſometimes it will happen in ſix hours after the embrace, in others twice as many weeks have elapſed before it has been perceived: theſe, I muſt acknowledge, are not very common caſes, but ſuch as have really fallen under my inſpection, as will be ſeen in the ſequel: in general, however, it appears in leſs than ten days. Chancres likewiſe vary as much in this particular.

IN the treatment of a confirmed clap, a great deal will depend upon its being ſimple or compound; in other words, whether it originated from a perſon who had only a gonorrhœa, or who at the ſame time was poxed likewiſe. In the latter caſe, powerful internals will be abſolutely neceſſary; in the former, a cure may frequently be accompliſhed by injection only.

CLAPS and chancres are often contracted at the ſame time, but do not always make their firſt appearance together; I have ſeen inſtances even where ſome weeks have intervened.

As the compoſition of injection, like that of every other remedy, muſt vary according to circumſtances, I ſhall decline giving any particular recipe; one general ingredient however I will venture to recommend, namely, Armenian bole, which from its abſorbent and other good qualities will prove highly beneficial both in correcting the venereal acrimony, and defending the ſound parts of the urethra therefrom.

IN the cure of claps, ſome practitioners have attended too much to the colour of the diſcharge, others to the conſiſtence of it; both are fallacious, particularly the former; as it will ſometimes be of a deep yellow, even to the laſt day, eſpecially in bilious habits; frequently it is equally high coloured in old gleets of ſeven or ten years ſtanding, where the party has been entirely free

free from infection all that time, as in ſome caſes has been ſufficiently manifeſted by the healthy ſtate of wives and children. A diſcharge of ſimilar colour and conſiſtence is often to be found attending the fluor albus, as it is called. From hence will follow the indiſpenſable neceſſity of examining further, than juſt the ſtate of the running: the beſt criterion will be the aſpect of the urethral orifice, and the ſenſations throughout that tube.

MANY families have been rendered unhappy from the length of time this diſeaſe ſometimes requires to make its firſt appearance: for a man, after performing a kind of quarantine for three weeks or a month, and no ſymptom of infection having ſhewn itſelf during that time, would naturally conclude himſelf entirely free from it, and proceed accordingly; but how great his aſtoniſhment, as well as chagrin, to diſcover (perhaps a month or two afterwards) the moſt indiſputable ſigns of his being infected: ſeveral inſtances of this kind have fallen under my inſpection, ſome of which,

I muſt confeſs I ſhould not have credited, had not they been accompanied with proofs not to be conteſted. From this we may infer, that although the virus very often makes the moſt rapid progreſs, at other times its operations are as ſluggiſh: this may ariſe from the degree of infection, or the patient's habit of body, or from both.

CASE I.

A MERCHANT in the city of London, four years ſince, applied to me in conſequence of great heat in making urine, painful erections, and a diſcharge of matter from the urethra, ſo acrid, as to threaten a phymoſis, it having already excoriated the greateſt part of the glans penis. Thus ſituated, he deſired to know if I did not call his diſorder a clap; to which I replied in the affirmative, and that it was not of the mildeſt kind: "Then Sir, ſaid he, I ſhall mention a circumſtance, that I think will ſurpriſe you, which is, that not a ſingle ſymptom of the diſeaſe appeared until two months and three days after it was contracted:" upon this account he deemed it

it not venereal; I aſſured him however that it was ſo, and could be removed only by treating it as ſuch. My patient was not of a bad habit of body, nor had his blood been previouſly heated by intemperance, the chordee was notwithſtanding ſo troubleſome, that I expected to have been obliged to uſe opiates, which I am very ſeldom under the neceſſity of doing; injections generally anſwering the purpoſe, by ſpeedily removing the inflammation and its conſequences: my only objection to opium in theſe caſes, is, the conſtipation which moſtly attends the uſe of it; although I am not an advocate for the old method by cathartics, yet I would not be underſtood to recommend abſolutely the reverſe; which muſt indubitably tend to increaſe, rather than alleviate ſymptoms ariſing from inflammation. It will be found fully ſufficient, that the inteſtinal evacuations be the ſame as at the time of perfect health.—Now to return to my patient; he was much alarmed at the high degree of pain and inflammation, which however was conſiderably leſſened in the ſpace of two days by means

means of injection and internal alteratives; three weeks continuance of which perfectly cured him, without any confinement or alteration in his uſual mode of living, except abſtinence from acids and ſpirituous liquors.

CASE II.

A GENTLEMAN of Dorſetſhire, in the month of February, 1778, came to town on purpoſe to be under my care; his ſymptoms at that time were a diſcharge of yellow matter from the urethra, chancres on the glans penis, a large bubo in the left groin, and a ſmaller one in the right. Upon my enquiring into particulars, he ſolemnly declared that he had not the leaſt reaſon to think himſelf infected, till upwards of nine weeks after coition, when he was attacked with a trickling ſenſation in the urethra, which was followed by a running and heat of urine; chancres ſoon afterwards appeared, and were ſucceeded in a ſhort time by tumefaction of the inguinal glands, which thereupon became extremely painful. He was at firſt attended by a ſurgeon in his own neighbourhood, who bled him very freely, gave ſtrong mercurial purges repeatedly, and ordered

dered him to dilute plentifully with barley water, &c. Fomentations and cataplaſms were applied to the buboes till ſuppuration took place, when he propoſed to diſcharge their contents by means of cauſtic or inciſion, but the patient not conſenting to either, immediately left the country, and ſoon after applied to me, requeſting that I would remove them without opening or ſuffering them to break, as he had the greateſt averſion to ſores of every kind, and much dreaded all chirurgical operations: I told him, that conſidering the very forward ſtate in which the buboes at that time were, (the fluctuation of matter being readily felt upon the ſlighteſt preſſure) I could make no other promiſe, than to exert my beſt abilities in endeavouring to effect what he ſo ardently deſired; obſerving likewiſe, that I frequently had been fortunate enough to render thoſe painful operations unneceſſary by the uſe of internal medicines alone; which, in my opinion, are the only ones that can ſafely be relied upon.

As to the repelling of buboes (in the vulgar phraſe, putting them back) I never make

make the leaſt heſitation of attempting to effect it, for this obvious reaſon, that a bubo is not a critical abſceſs, of which I am well convinced from daily experience, notwithſtanding the general received opinion to the contrary; I have ſeen many inſtances where buboes have been carefully brought forward to the moſt perfect ſuppuration, liberally opened, and a copious diſcharge very induſtriouſly encouraged for the ſpace of four, five, or ſix months; notwithſtanding which the parties have remained completely poxed; as the nocturnal pains, foul ulcers, and eruptions ſufficiently manifeſted a few months afterwards, when they became my patients, and were radically cured by the alterative method in half that time. This being a fact not to be controverted, why ſhould ſuppuration be encouraged, as it muſt be attended with great pain, filthineſs and inconvenience? And after all, not being critical, a regular courſe of medicines will be indiſpenſibly neceſſary: the cicatrix or ſcar is likewiſe a circumſtance not the moſt agreeable, eſpecially to the fair ſex.—Without apologizing for this degreſſion, I

will haſten to my Dorſetſhire friend. Entertaining theſe ſentiments, I immediately ſat about the diſcuſſion of his buboes; for which purpoſe alteratives were adminiſtered internally, and detergent injections and dreſſings applied to the urethra and the chancres on the penis: by theſe means the ſymptoms gradually abated, and at the end of a month he thought himſelf cured; but I adviſed a continuance of the medicines three or four weeks longer, on account of the high degree of virulence we had had to encounter with: he readily conſented to perſevere in the uſe of them, having already experienced ſuch ſalutary effects; and to ſhew that he did not think the decoction at all nauſeous, he generally drank it at meals in lieu of any other liquor. Thus, in leſs than two months, without being confined to the houſe a ſingle day during the whole courſe, he was perfectly re-eſtabliſhed in health, and has remained well ever ſince. He was highly pleaſed at the removal of the buboes without opening, and very generouſly rewarded my ſervices.

CASE III.

In the month of July, 1777, a Gentleman requeſted my advice upon the following ſymptoms; an unuſual (though not painful) ſenſation in the urethra, a diſcharge therefrom, very ſmall in quantity, and of colour ſo light as ſcarce to tinge his linen. I was of opinion that theſe ſymptoms were the harbingers or fore-runners of a clap; but he ſtrongly inſiſted that his diſorder could be nothing more than weakneſs, or a ſtrain, as he had had no venereal connection for eleven weeks previous to this indiſpoſition. I informed him, that ſhould the cure of his diſeaſe be undertaken in this early ſtage, I believed it might be removed in leſs than a week, if he ſhould ſtrictly adhere to my inſtructions, but as he ſeemed ſo firmly perſuaded that his diſorder was not infectious, I adviſed him to wait only a ſhort time, and he would then be perfectly ſenſible of the real nature and tendency of it. Three days only had elapſed, before he paid me a ſecond viſit, when I found my prognoſtick ſufficiently verified; the urethra

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and glans penis being highly inflamed, great heat in making water, ſome pain in erection, and a diſcharge of yellow matter iſſuing from the urinary canal: he was by this time fully convinced of his error, and requeſted that I would relieve him as expeditiouſly as poſſible.—I told him that his delay of three days would procraſtinate the cure more than a week, and in the preſent ſtate of the diſeaſe I judged that it would at leaſt require a fortnight, ſhould even his temperance and regularity not be called in queſtion. However, by the uſe of injection and a few alterative pills, he was perfectly cured in thirteen days.

CASE IV.

A GENTLEMAN in Weſtminſter ſent for me two years ſince, to give an opinion upon a ſtilicidium, or diſcharge from the urethra, which had firſt made its appearance two days before I ſaw him; he was quite at a loſs to account for it, not having copulated for upwards of two months prior to that period. I enquired whether he felt an irritation or

trickling in the urinary paſſage, he anſwered in the affirmative, upon which I pronounced the caſe to be venereal, although the running was perfectly clear, and the parts entirely free from any external inflammation. My patient, however, ſeemed to think that I had formed an erroneous opinion; I therefore deſired him to defer uſing medicine of any kind for a day or two, in which time I made no doubt of an alteration in his ſentiments. The next morning I was again ſent for, and informed, that the parts did not look quite ſo cool as on the preceding day, and that his urine felt rather warmer than uſual, theſe ſymptoms he attributed to ſome thing he had eat or drank the day before.

I REPLIED, that in twenty-four hours I was fully perſuaded he would aſſign another cauſe. Before breakfaſt the next day, he ſent for me again, and ſaid that he no longer entertained the leaſt doubt of the diſeaſe being infectious, having lately perceived ſome ſymptoms of an approaching chordee; the running was now become yellow,

yellow, the parts were inflamed externally as well as within, and he could not make urine without ſome degree of pain. I prepared for him a cooling injection, of which he uſed a ſyringeful night and morning, and as he was very ſubject to the gout, I adminiſtered no other medicines internally, than decoctions of the woods and camphor, by which means, in the ſpace of ſeventeen days, the cure was very eaſily completed.

CASE V.

A GENTLEMAN in the county of Kent, put himſelf under my care on the ninth day of December 1779; he had enjoyed a very good ſtate of health for ſome years, till within three days of his application to me, when he diſcovered a yellow running from the urethra, attended with a heat of urine, and an inflammation in the glans penis and præputium. There was likewiſe a ſmall chancre on the frænum. After ocular demonſtration, I aſſured him that his diſeaſe was venereal, my patient was not of a different opinion (having been frequently

quently infected before) but he expreſſed great aſtoniſhment at its being ſo; from the circumſtance of not having had any venereal intercourſe ſince the fifth day of the preceding September, and having been entirely free of any ſymptoms of the diſeaſe till the ſixth day of December; an interval of thirteen weeks and upwards from the time of contracting the diſeaſe, to that of its appearance. Upon my interrogating him very cloſely as to the commencement of this affair, his anſwer was, that he could have no intereſt in deceiving me, and that it was impoſſible he ſhould have been miſtaken, having a memorandum in his pocket-book of ſome particular occurrences of that day, relative to this buſineſs, which with him reduced the matter to an abſolute certainty. I obſerved, that probably ſome time ſubſequent to that period he might have been too free in his libations to Bacchus, and be thereby deprived of recollecting his laſt engagement with Venus. This ſuppoſition he obviated, by declaring upon his honour that he had not been inebriated for ſeveral months paſt, on the contrary, he had

had rather lived abſtemiouſly than otherwiſe. This gentleman's health was perfectly re-eſtabliſhed in three weeks, by the uſe of internal alterants and external detergents.

THE foregoing caſes having been ſelected from many ſimilar ones, to ſhew what great length of time the venereal diſeaſe ſometimes requires to manifeſt itſelf; let us now advert to others diametrically the reverſe in point of time.

CASE IV.

A MERCHANT in the city, who ſeveral years ago had been my patient, conſulted me in January laſt; he complained of an irritation in the urethra, and ſome heat in the glans penis, which appeared rather inflamed externally. He informed me, that his laſt connection had been only on the preceding evening, at about eleven o'clock, and antecedent to that, he had not committed an act of venery for more than five months, during which time his health had been remarkably good. At ſix o'clock that morning he was awakened by a ſharp pain

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in the yard, which ſoon abated, but did not entirely go off, a diſagreeable heat and irritation ſtill remaining. From the ſymptoms coming on ſo early as within ſeven hours after the embrace, he could not believe his complaint to be venereal, but ſuppoſed that it aroſe from friction, and the bad wine he had that night drank; I therefore declined to preſcribe any medicines, but adviſed that he ſhould live after his uſual manner, and think no more of the diſeaſe till it might become more worthy of his attention; which happened two nights afterwards, by the pain he experienced from a chordee: there was likewiſe a yellow running from the urethra, accompanied with a heat of urine; his doubts by this time being perfectly removed, he immediately entered upon the uſe of injection and pills, by which he obtained a cure in leſs than three weeks.

CASE VII.

A NAVAL officer in the month of March, 1778, was attacked with an unuſual warmth in the urinary paſſage, in leſs than ſix hours after coition, and it gradually increaſed for

three days, when a copious running came on, attended with a ſmarting of urine: in this ſtage of the diſeaſe, he placed himſelf under my care, informing me that he was lately returned from a long voyage, and for ſeveral months paſt had not had an opportunity of getting the infection, he could therefore be certain as to the date of his diſorder, having been entirely free from venereal complaints for two years before. In effecting this Gentleman's cure, near a month was required, by reaſon of the high degree of ſcurvy with which he was at that time infeſted.

CASE VIII.

A GENTLEMAN in the county of Eſſex, about ſix months ſince, paid me a viſit on the following account; having taken a night's lodging with a lady of his acquaintance, the very next morning at breakfaſt he felt ſome uneaſineſs in the urethra, which in the courſe of a few hours increaſed, and at the end of five days terminated in the ſymptoms of both clap and

pox, viz. a diſcharge of virulent matter from the urethra, with heat of urine, &c. and three chancres externally; two on the præputium, and one on the glans penis. He was not much ſurpriſed at the early appearance of the diſeaſe, as with him it generally happened ſo; he neglected however to uſe medicine of any kind, till it had arrived at the ſtate above-mentioned, when he became my patient; and, without further delay, began upon a courſe of alteratives and detergents, which effected his cure in leſs than a month.

To the peculiarities of conſtitution, as well as degrees of infection, muſt be attributed the different periods in which particular diſeaſes make their appearance. This circumſtance may depend on the diſproportion of one or more of the ingredients or materials which compoſe the human body. Some men are naturally ſo irritable and inflammable both in body and mind, as inſtantly to take fire like tinder or touchwood, from the ſmalleſt ſpark; while others of cold phlegmatic habits, are (as is to be expected) quite the reverſe.

CASE

CASE IX.

FOUR years ſince a Gentleman in the county of Northampton, made a journey to town, to conſult me upon what he called a weakneſs of a particular kind, as it was accompanied with great inflammation; I immediately ſuſpected what the caſe was, and upon examination, found it to be a moſt virulent clap, with an incipient phymoſis; he complained likewiſe of a chordee. I was much ſurpriſed when he told me that his apothecary had not deemed it venereal, but treated it as ariſing merely from relaxation, giving large doſes of Peruvian bark and elixir of vitriol. My patient ſaid that the only reaſon why his diſorder had not been judged infectious was, that it did not diſcover itſelf till more than ſix weeks after coition; from which circumſtance the apothecary had declared, that it could not poſſibly be venereal. By the uſe of deterſive injections and alterative pills, he returned home in perfect health at the expiration of about three weeks.

CASE X.

In the month of December, 1778, a tradeſman in Weſtminſter commenced my patient, in conſequence of a virulent gonorrhœa, which he had contracted more than a month before his application to me, and of which he gave me the following account; that in ſix hours after copulation, he perceived an unuſual ſenſation in the yard, a kind of trickling or itching in the urinary canal, which for upwards of three weeks had been a little troubleſome, but by no means painful, until the 26th day, when a clear colourleſs diſcharge iſſued from the urethra, which now began to be much inflamed, and felt very ſore whenever the urine paſſed through it; on the 28th day, the running was quite yellow and rather copious; and upon the twenty-ninth he was attacked with a chordee, which induced him to be under my care the next morning; he ſaid he certainly ſhould have applied ſooner, but the inconvenience he experienced previous to the 26th day was ſo trifling,

trifling, that he had not entertained the leaſt idea of his complaint being venereal; it was however entirely removed in fifteen days, by the ſame means as were uſed in ſome of the preceding caſes.

CASE XI.

A GENTLEMAN in the county of Surry, ſent for me in the month of Auguſt, 1778. I found him labouring under a confirmed pox, of which the following were his ſymptoms, a violent head-ach, nocturnal pains in the ſhin bones, with nodes thereon, a large foul ulcer in his throat, upon the left tonſil, a heat in the urethra, and an obſtruction therein: upon my requeſting to know every particular relative to the riſe and progreſs of the diſeaſe: he informed me, that it was contracted about ten months before, and one thing appeared very ſtrange to him, namely, his knowing himſelf to be infected in leſs than twelve hours after the connection, from a very troubleſome irritation in the urinary paſſage, which ſeized him about that time, and for ſome days encreaſed, notwithſtanding his immediate appli-

application to a ſurgeon, who ordered almond emulſions, with nitre, manna and ſalts; and to dilute freely with barley water, in which gum arabic had been diſſolved, partial warm baths and veneſection were not omitted; in the courſe of a week or ten days, mercurial ointment was uſed very liberally for at leaſt a month, with briſk purges at intervals. The running, he ſaid, was very plentiful for the ſpace of five or ſix weeks: he then took balſamics for three weeks, and was thought to be cured; however, in about ſeven or eight weeks afterwards, he perceived his health to be gradually on the decline, a diminution of appetite ſtrength and ſpirits, and ſleep interrupted by wandering pains in his head and limbs:—nodes ſoon after formed on the ſhins, and an ulcer in the throat. On the appearance of theſe ſymptoms, another ſurgeon was employed, who adminiſtered large quantities of the ſublimate ſolution, for a conſiderable time, when finding that the diſeaſe did not give way, he put himſelf under my care, and was perfectly cured in two months, by the alteratives recommended

mended in the 13th page, and a few bougies to remove the urethral obſtructions.

BE it obſerved, that no injection had been uſed in this gentleman's caſe; to which circumſtance, in my opinion, may be attributed the want of ſucceſs, for had a proper detergent one been applied in the beginning, the venereal matter would not have been abſorbed, and conſequently the pox, with its diſagreeable attendants, been thereby prevented.

CASE XII.

A GENTLEMAN in Weſtminſter eighteen months ſince, conſulted me in conſequence of a boil (as he termed it) ſeated amongſt the hair on the pubes, very near the penis. This ulcer had reſiſted every application his ſurgeon had made to it for three or four weeks. From the hard edges and other appearances, I pronounced it to be a chancre; this my patient did not at that time credit, however, not long after he altered his opinion upon the appearance of a bubo in the left groin, which in a few days became very painful, when he paid me a ſecond viſit,

viſit, and requeſted to have it repelled: that was performed, and a cure effected by an alterative courſe in about thirty days.

CASE XIII.

In the month of November, 1778, a Gentleman, in the county of Middleſex, labouring under a confirmed lues venerea, applied to me for its cure; the ſymptoms at that time were, a ſmall node on the right ſhin bone, an ulcer in the noſe, nocturnal pains, and a copper coloured eruption overſpreading a great part of his body. He informed me, that, till within the laſt twelve months, he had never experienced a ſingle ſymptom of the venereal diſeaſe, and that his preſent afflictions, if they were venereal, muſt ariſe from a clap contracted a year before, which denoted a high degree of malignity, the inflammation being very conſiderable, and of long duration, attended with heat of urine, chordee, &c. the running he ſaid was copious, and continued upwards of five weeks, in which time he had been purged every three or four days, had rubbed in a large quantity of mercurial

ointment, afterwards taken electuaries and pills in abundance: in conſequence of this proceſs the ſymptoms had diſappeared, and at the end of two months his cure was pronounced. Some few months after, however, he perceived his health to be gradually on the decline, without being able to aſſign the real cauſe, not having the leaſt ſuſpicion of venereal matter; his appetite and ſtrength daily decreaſed, his ſleeps were ſhort, interrupted, and afforded little or no refreſhment, and at length colliquative ſweats enſued: thus circumſtanced, he conſulted a phyſician, who, judging his caſe to be a conſumption, put him under a courſe of aſs's milk, &c. &c. for a conſiderable time, but growing every day worſe and worſe, he was ordered a change of air, and removed into another county. Finding however no greater relief from the alteration of air, than he had before experienced from medicine; he began to deſpair, and moſt earneſtly wiſhed for his diſſolution. Fortunately, an old acquaintance from town called to ſee him, and upon hearing ſome of his ſymptoms

ſtrongly urged him to become my patient, he accordingly did ſo, and was perfectly cured in the ſpace of three months, merely by the uſe of alteratives.

CASE XIV.

A GIRL on the town applied to me upon the tenth of November, 1778, and ſaid ſhe ſuppoſed it would be neceſſary for her to undergo a thorough repair, not having been free from infection for a conſiderable time; her ſymptoms then were, an ulcer in the throat, a foul eruption on the abdomen, a brace of ſmall buboes, and a great diſcharge of acrid matter from the pudendum. As ſhe was extremely anxious to have the buboes diſperſed, I told her that no time ſhould be loſt, and conſequently adviſed the immediate uſe of medicine; ſhe replied, that it muſt be deferred till next day, as her miſtreſs expected much company that evening, and had engaged her to one gentleman in particular, with whom ſhe was to ſleep that night, his name having been entered in the book for that purpoſe ſome days ſince; and for which he had paid the uſual

retaining fee.—I was not ſurpriſed at this account, ſimilar ones having occurred before, and particularly this inſtance; a friend of mine, an Officer in the army, made application to a Lady Abbeſs to know on what night a particular nymph would be diſengaged; after inſpecting her ledger, ſhe informed him that the lady was diſpoſed of for twenty-two nights, and if he pleaſed ſhe would take down his name for the twenthird, upon paying the uſual compliment.—But to return to my patient; ſhe called upon me again the next day, and without any further delay entered upon a courſe of alteratives, by means of which her health was perfectly re-eſtabliſhed in leſs than ſeven weeks. She was under great apprehenſions leſt the buboes ſhould ſuppurate and occaſion ſcars, but was ſoon made eaſy on that head, as they diſperſed very kindly in a few days, the other ſymptoms gradually diſappeared, and in little more than three weeks ſhe thought herſelf well, it was therefore with ſome difficulty that ſhe could be perſuaded to continue the medicines a ſhort time longer, in order to confirm the cure.

CASE XV.

A MECHANIC in Weſtminſter, being employed in the houſe of a Nobleman, became acquainted with the Lady's woman, and after many entreaties, perſuaded her to grant him the laſt favour: in the ſpace of a fortnight however, he was fully convinced of the impropriety of the connection, being at that time obliged to commence my patient, on account of a large chancre ſeated on the anterior part of the ſcrotum; it was the moſt malign that ever came under my inſpection, being in ſize equal to a ſhilling, and had the appearance of an eſchar, produced by ſome potential cautery; the edges were hard and thick, and the ſcrotum around it much inflamed. The urethra, and every other part of the penis had entirely eſcaped the infection; from which circumſtance he did not ſuſpect the nature of his complaint, till the inguinal glands enlarged and became painful. Proper externals and a courſe of anti-venereals effected a cure in thirty-two days.

CASE

CASE XVI.

About two years ago, a Lady applied to me in conſequence of a ſore throat, which had for ſome weeks been extremely troubleſome, notwithſtanding the variety of gargariſms, &c. that had been uſed in expectation of its removal. Upon inſpecting her throat, I pronounced the ulceration there to be venereal, and was confirmed in that opinion, when ſhe informed me, that her reſt of late had been greatly diſturbed by nocturnal head-achs; ſhe however was at the ſame time entirely at a loſs to account for theſe ſymptoms, the pudendum having never been diſeaſed. The infection, I ſaid, had in this caſe moſt probably been conveyed by the tongue, and therefore I deſired to know whether ſhe had kiſſed columbatim; to which ſhe anſwered in the affirmative, and jocoſely obſerved, that ſuch conſequences might be added to the many other cogent reaſons for keeping that member within its proper limits. She then entered upon a courſe of alterants, and was cured in about five weeks.

THE infection may be communicated likewiſe by contaminated ſemen, without injuring the pudendum in its paſſage to the uterus, from whence its poiſonous particles may be abſorbed, and by means of the lymphatics conveyed to the blood, and thereby to every part of the body.

CASE XVII.

A GENTLEMAN in the vicinity of London, about five years ſince, conſulted me upon the ill-ſtate of health which himſelf and lady at that time laboured under. He informed me of his having led a very irregular life for ſome years previous to matrimony, that he had been frequently diſeaſed, and recollected having had chancres a few weeks before his marriage, which being removed by mercurial ointment and cathartics, at length he was ſuppoſed to be cured, and ſoon after entered into the holy ſtate: in about five months his wife was thought to be pregnant from the ſuppreſſion of the menſtrual evacuation, and the family felicitated themſelves thereupon; but the other concomitant ſymptoms not

attending

attending in proper time, the parties were greatly diſappointed, and particularly ſo, to find that in lieu thereof the lady's health as well as that of her huſband, was evidently on the decline. A ſlow fever, want of appetite, ſtrength and ſpirits, ſoon after ſucceeded, together with that of ſleep in the night, being generally drowſy in the day time. Medicines of various kinds had been adminiſtered without producing the deſired effect; the gentleman had an eruption upon his breaſt and other parts of the body, which was encouraged by the faculty, in expectation of its being critical; they were, however, greatly miſtaken, as none of the other ſymptoms diſappeared in conſequence of it. The lady ſtill continued in a very languid ſtate, notwithſtanding the number and variety of medical preſcriptions. In this unhappy ſituation they remained for ſome weeks, when an old bottle companion paid the gentleman a viſit, and obſerving ſome of the eruption on his forehead ſaid, "I'll be d-m--d if you've not got a corona veneris, your caſe has been moſt egregiouſly miſtaken; pray loſe no more time, and give

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me leave to ſend my ſurgeon to you;" he acquieſced, and I waited upon him the next morning, when I found that his diſeaſe was moſt evidently venereal from many other ſymptoms, as well as the eruption, which was of the true copper colour.

Upon examining the lady, her ſkin in ſome places appeared rather diſcoloured, (as if nature was labouring to throw off part of the noxious humour that way, but wanted ſtrength to effect it) and ſhe had likewiſe every ſymptom of a pocky hectick. The diſeaſe had been communicated to her entirely by the contaminated ſemen of the man, without its having done the leaſt injury to the vagina, or any other part of the pudendum. After having made the neceſſary enquiries, I recommended a courſe of alteratives to both man and wife, by the uſe of which, in leſs than two months they were perfectly cured, as appears at this time by the healthineſs of their offspring. The lady became pregnant about two months after leaving off the medicines, and has borne ſeveral children ſince.

HAD this gentleman adopted the ſalutary plan purſued by ſome of our modern debauchees, prior to entering into the connubial ſtate, all the foregoing diſagreeables would have been prevented. This prudent plan or meaſure, is nothing more than going through a ſhort courſe of alteratives: which in many inſtances muſt be highly neceſſary, particularly after a ſeries of irregularities, and a variety of infections, which through neglect or improper treatment, may be productive of great miſchief in future.

THE inefficacy of a firſt or ſecond ſalivation occurring ſo very frequently, I do not think thoſe caſes worthy of inſertion here, I ſhall therefore immediately proceed to the relation of ſuch as have withſtood three, four, or five repetitions of that foul proceſs.

CASE XVIII.

IN the year 1775, a Gentleman in the city of London put himſelf under my care, on account of a confirmed pox, with which he had been infected ſome years, notwith-

ſtanding three ſalivations, and long courſes of the ſolution of corroſive ſublimate and ſarſaparilla decoctions.—He gave the following particulars of his caſe; that he contracted the infection in the year 1769, which at that time manifeſted itſelf in a clap and chancres; his ſurgeon adminiſtered medicines for eight or nine weeks, and then diſmiſſed him as cured. In the courſe of a few months a foul eruption overſpread his body, and ulcers formed in his throat; he again applied to the ſurgeon, who adviſed ſalivation, and ſoon after put him in a courſe of ſpitting for ſome weeks, and then pronounced his cure to be radical. In leſs than ſix months the diſeaſe re-appeared, but with much greater malignity than before: the ulcer in the throat broke out afreſh, with the addition of two in the noſe, which ſoon ſwelled to ſuch a degree, as to obſtruct, in ſome meaſure, the ſight of the left eye, and he was deprived of reſt by nocturnal pains. Thus circumſtanced, he employed another ſurgeon, who alſo ſalivated him; the ſpitting he ſaid was continued above three weeks longer than in the preceding ſalivation, after which he was aſſured by his medical

medical friend, that the diſeaſe was perfectly removed. Buſineſs ſome months afterwards required his taking a journey into the North, where he was alarmed with the return of ſome of his former ſymptoms, nocturnal pains, &c. During his reſidence in the country, he took a great deal of mercury in various forms and preparations for ſeveral weeks; which proving to be merely palliative, he returned to town and conſulted another ſurgeon, who recommended a third ſalivation; this he did not very readily agree to, having experienced its inefficacy twice before. However, being informed that it was the dernier reſource, and at the ſame time entertaining a very high opinion of the abilities and integrity of his ſurgeon, he at length conſented to be ſalivated a third time; when a copious ſpitting was continued for a conſiderable time, as long as it could with any degree of either ſafety or propriety be purſued.

He was attended likewiſe by a phyſician, who, with the ſurgeon, declared that the diſeaſe was entirely vanquiſhed, and that nothing more was neceſſary than pure air and

nutritious diet to recruit his ſtrength, and finally complete the cure. Indeed they were, he ſaid, quite poſitive as to the ſucceſs of this laſt ſalivation, the ſymptoms having given way ſo readily, and the proceſs in every reſpect been ſo ſatisfactorily conducted throughout. The patient acquieſced in the prognoſtic, and without further delay removed into the country for the benefit of air, &c. This pleaſing deluſion laſted not many months, for he had the mortification to perceive that ſome of the ſymptoms of his old diſorder were gradually coming forward again; he therefore conſulted his phyſician once more, by whoſe direction he took ſublimate ſolution and ſarſaparilla for ſome months; theſe medicines afforded him only a temporary relief, and were not attended with better ſucceſs than the three ſalivations which had preceded them, as evidently appeared not many months after by a return of the diſeaſe. His patience as well as conſtitution was by this time nearly exhauſted; inſomuch that he frequently declared, no one ſhould ever perſuade him to make any further trial of medicine, it having ſo repeatedly

peatedly proved fallacious. The diſeaſe however becoming almoſt inſupportable, he was prevailed upon to make one effort more for its removal; in conſequence of which he became my patient at the time above-mentioned, when he had ſeveral foul ulcers on the back, two in his noſe, one on the cheek, and another behind the right ear; his head was almoſt covered with ſcabs, as was likewiſe the ſcrotum; from all theſe iſſued ſuch nauſeous effluvia, that his neareſt relations and friends could not remain in the ſame room with him long at a time. Pains in his head and limbs prevented him from ſleeping, except towards morning or in the day. His appetite, ſtrength and ſpirits were ſo much reduced, that he deſpaired of relief from any thing but a total diſſolution. After having attentively given ear to this melancholy detail of repeated diſappointments, and examined the ulcers, &c. and made the proper enquiries relative to his former habit of body, or natural temperament previous to the diſeaſe, I declared, as my opinion, that he might be cured by alteratives, if of the moſt powerful kind, and regularity perſevered in for ſome weeks. He aſſented,

though not before firſt obſerving, that by this time he had entirely loſt all faith in medicine. I prepared for him ſtrong decoctions of the woods, and likewiſe alterative pills, and deſired him to take them in ſuch doſes, and as repeatedly as the ſtrength of his ſtomach would admit of. Relying ſolely on the effects of internals, I applied no other dreſſing to the ulcers than dry lint throughout the whole time. I recommended diet of the moſt nutritious kind, and that it ſhould be taken in ſmall quantities, frequently repeated, by reaſon of the very weak ſtate to which the diſeaſe and reiterated ſalivations had reduced him. In little better than a week, the nocturnal pains entirely left him, the ſcabs ſoon after fell off, and the ulcers were in good condition; his appetite and ſpirits daily increaſed, inſomuch that he thought himſelf well in leſs than a month, the ulcers being all healed, and every ſymptom of the diſeaſe having by that time diſappeared.—Notwithſtanding which I judged it neceſſary to continue the medicines a month longer, to prevent a relapſe. My patient had no objection to perſevere in the uſe of them for any length of time, having

having already experienced ſuch ſalutary effects; which, with great pleaſure, he contraſted to thoſe of the methods he had formerly purſued; inſtead of being confined to his chamber, and undergoing one of the greateſt puniſhments (as he expreſſed it) in the power of the faculty to inflict, namely, that nauſeous proceſs a ſalivation, he had enjoyed moderate exerciſe in the open air every day the whole time he was under cure, and experienced an increaſe of appetite, ſtrength and ſpirits in proportion to the time of uſing the medicines; and as a proof of their not being unpleaſant, he conſtantly drank the apozem at meals, and at other times when thirſty. Thus was he radically cured in the ſpace of two months, having never experienced any return of the complaint, as he not long ſince informed me.

CASE XIX.

THREE years ſince, a Merchant in Weſtminſter employed me to extricate him from the following diſagreeables; nodes on the ſhins, an ulcer in the throat, nocturnal pains, and a ſcabby eruption on his body, which

which from its ſtench was extremely offenſive. He was much emaciated, and had little or no appetite. I deſired to be informed of particulars, the date of the diſeaſe, in what manner it firſt appeared, and what method had been uſed for its removal. To which he replied, that in the year 1772 he caught the infection, which made its firſt appearance in a bubo on the right groin, and was not preceded by either chancre or clap, nor had he ever been infected before. The tumour increaſed very faſt, and was extremely painful, his ſurgeon encouraged ſuppuration, and when that was complete, opened it by cauſtic. The diſcharge continued upwards of three months, during which time he rubbed in large quantities of mercurial ointment, and was purged at intervals to prevent a ſore mouth; and at the end of about fourteen weeks his cure was pronounced. In a few months however, the diſeaſe returned; ulcers having formed in the throat, accompanied with nocturnal pains in his head and limbs, for which he underwent a ſalivation, and was again ſuppoſed to have received a cure; but in leſs than ſix months he was obliged to apply once more

more to his ſurgeon, the diſeaſe having re-appeared with the addition of a node on the left ſhin-bone; he was ſalivated a ſecond time, and was ſaid to be perfectly cured. After ſome months the diſeaſe again appeared, when he employed another ſurgeon who perſuaded him to make trial of ſalivation for the third time, which affording only a temporary relief, he conſulted a phyſician, by whoſe directions he took medicines for ſeveral months, until the diſeaſe was thought to be removed; being reduced by this proceſs to a very languid ſtate, country air and aſs's milk was recommended, but they had not the deſired effect; for ſoon after the diſcontinuance of anti-venereals, he gradually relapſed into his former ſituation. His medical friends being again conſulted, they ſtrongly urged the neceſſity of a fourth ſalivation, as the only probable means of ſucceeding; by this time he entertained no very high opinion of ſalivation, but being almoſt worn out with pain and diſappointment, he agreed to it with this proviſo, that it ſhould be carried to ſuch a degree, as to terminate in the perfect re-eſtabliſhment of his health, or in the grand

cure of all mortal complaints. To humour him they acquieſced in the propoſal, and he was ſalivated for the fourth time; the ſpitting they aſſured him was continued as long, and to as great a degree as his ſtrength poſſibly could admit of: and every circumſtance conſidered, they had not the leaſt reaſon to doubt but a radical cure would be the conſequence. This deſirable prediction however, was by no means verified, as evidently appeared in the courſe of a few months, the diſeaſe returning with ſeemingly accumulated virulence which he obſerved to be the caſe after each of the preceding ſalivations. Having finiſhed the narrative, he deſired to be informed whether I could render him any ſervice, which he was induced to believe might happen, from ſome account he had lately heard of my having affected cures after the failure of repeated ſalivations. I told him that I had been ſucceſsful in that line, and notwithſtanding the obſtinacy of his diſeaſe, I entertained ſome hopes of relieving him. After ſome further converſation, he deſired me to adminiſter what I thought proper, and that he would ſtrictly obſerve my

directions

directions in every reſpect. Accordingly, I recommended a courſe of alteratives; and at the ſame time the moſt nutritious diet, with moderate exerciſe in the open air, to be frequently repeated, proportionably to his encreaſe of ſtrength. Within the firſt fortnight I ſent him three times to a bagnio, in order both to cleanſe the ſkin and promote perſpiration. By theſe means he obtained a perfect cure in the ſpace of ten weeks, and has remained healthy ever ſince.

CASE XX.

A GENTLEMAN in the county of Cornwall, four years ago, put himſelf under my care; his caſe was a confirmed pox, under which he had laboured near eight years, the ſymptoms at times having been palliated by five ſalivations, and a variety of medicines. Upon my requeſting to be informed of every particular relative to his complaint, he told me, that being a man of very few words, he never dealt in long narrations, of which his caſe would prove one if given in detail; he ſhould therefore mention a few of the moſt material circumſtances, and wrap them

up in very ſmall compaſs. He ſaid, "That about eight years before, he contracted a ſmall chancre on the penis near the frænum, which his ſurgeon healed in a few days by the uſe of mercurials both externally and internally. A ſhort time after a bubo formed in the groin; it ſuppurated, was opened by cauſtic, and, after diſcharging ſome weeks, healed; he took medicines ſix or eight weeks, and was ſaid to be cured. In the courſe of a few months he was viſited by an ulcer in the throat, nodes, and nocturnal pains. In fine, the inveteracy of his diſeaſe was ſuch, that, from the time above-mentioned, to that in which he was ſpeaking, it had withſtood five ſalivations, and great quantities of different medicines adminiſtered between each of them: and (as he expreſſed it) had he not had the conſtitution of a horſe, the diſeaſe, or the methods uſed for its removal, muſt in that length of time have deſtroyed him: but thanks to heaven, his ſtamina were naturally of the ſtrongeſt kind. He was now quite emaciated and worn down with nocturnal pains in his head, limbs, &c. There were three nodes

on

on his ribs, and a large ulcer on the head, from whence ſeveral pieces of bone had exfoliated, and many more were ſo looſe as to require extraction ſoon after he became my patient; this opening had been made by a cauſtic for the purpoſe of diſcharging a large collection of matter. Theſe were his ſymptoms at the time he made application to me; and notwithſtanding the meaſures hitherto adopted had ſucceeded no better than as mere palliatives, I diſpaired not of removing the diſeaſe; having ſo frequently experienced the powerful effects of alterants in the moſt confirmed caſes, where many repeated ſalivations had proved abortive. This gentleman acquired a radical cure in three months by the uſe of alteratives: had the exfoliations been completed ſooner, I ſhould not have given him the medicines ſo long.

CASE XXI.

In the year 1777, a Gentleman from the county of York, came up to town to be under my care He had been afflicted with a venereal complaint almoſt ever ſince his birth,

birth, by means of an infected nurſe, whoſe foul milk ſo gradually affected him, that ſome weeks elapſed before his parents were able to account for his declining ſtate of health; happily however, the cauſe was diſcovered, and a check put to the rapid progreſs of the diſeaſe, by means of anti-venereals. The growth however of the child was much impeded, as the medicines though continued a long time had only palliated the ſymptoms, and ſaved the life of the patient. When he conſulted me, his age did not exceed twenty years, he carried but little fleſh, and was low in ſtature, although his parents were the reverſe. Foul eruptions frequently infeſted many parts of his body, and ſometimes afforded a temporary relief from the achs and pains which he generally at other times experienced. His eyes were extremely weak, and often ſo much affected by this acrid humour, as to be threatened with a loſs of ſight. The infection having been thus deeply rooted in the conſtitution, and in a manner interwoven with it from his infancy, I entertained very ſlender hopes of totally

totally eradicating it; this opinion I communicated to my patient, who, nevertheleſs, entered very cheerfully upon a courſe of my medicines, which ſome of his acquaintance had frequently given him a very favourable account of. In the ſpace of three weeks he acquired a good appetite; the cutaneous eruption gradually gave way, as did likewiſe the pain in his limbs, &c. he daily improved in ſtrength and ſpirits, and at the end of three months appeared to be in high health, and was grown fat. By my advice he continued the medicines three months longer, and was then perfectly cured.

Let this, amongſt many other ſimilar inſtances, ſerve as a caution to parents how they entruſt their infant offſpring to mercenaries. Other acrid humours may often be derived from the ſame unhappy ſource.

CASE XXII.

A Tradesman in Weſtminſter, about two years and a half ſince, became my patient, together with his wife and child, who, at that time, were all infected with the venereal diſeaſe; the man had a copper-coloured

coloured eruption on his body, and an ulcer in the throat; the woman a bubo in the right groin, and nocturnal pains; and the child a venereal eruption which overſpread the greateſt part of its body. This complicated ſcene of diſtreſs took its riſe from the huſband, who informed me, that nine or ten months before, he had made an imprudent connexion; twelve days after which, a ſmall ulceration (a common excoriation he ſuppoſed it to be, though in reality a chancre*) made its appearance on the glans penis, near the frænum: not ſuſpecting it to be venereal, he applied a piece of dry lint or cotton, which healed it in a few days. On examining the part, I found, that notwithſtanding it had ſkinned over ſo readily, yet there remained a ſmall calloſity, from which all this miſchief had originated. In the courſe of a few months he had reaſon to ſuſpect himſelf to be infected, and a ſhort time after the mortification to find that he had communicated the diſeaſe to his wife, from whoſe milk it was conveyed to the child alſo. An enlargement

* By the patient's account, not much larger than a pin's head.

of the inguinal gland was the firſt venereal ſymptom that attacked the woman, none of the neighbouring parts having been at all affected; we may therefore conclude, that ſhe received the infection from the contaminated ſemen of the man. The family ſurgeon and apothecary having for ſome time adminiſtered medicines without the deſired effect, I was thereupon called in, and found the parties in the ſituation as above deſcribed. The child at this time was not more than twelve months old, conſequently very little ſucceſs could be expected from the application of medicine immediately to the infant itſelf, for, let the preparation be ever ſo palatable to the taſte, or gentle in its effects, a ſufficient quantity would not be taken to eradicate a diſeaſe of this kind. Therefore, I deſired the mother to continue ſuckling her child, that the remedy might be conveyed to it through the ſame channel that had communicated the diſeaſe; for this purpoſe, I immediately put her under a courſe of alteratives, of which we could only take ſmall doſes on account of the infant, where-

by the cure was protracted to near four months, at which period I had the ſatisfaction of ſeeing both mother and child perfectly freed from this loathſome diſeaſe. The man's health was re-eſtabliſhed in half the time that had been requiſite for the cure of his wife and child, by reaſon of his taking the medicines in their full doſes.

I COULD mention ſeveral caſes ſimilar to the foregoing ones, was I not of opinion, that they will elucidate the ſubject as well as ten times the number.

N. B. IN the treatment of chancres, their calloſity ſhould be removed as expeditiouſly as poſſible, to prevent the ill effects of abſorption which will otherwiſe enſue.

EXCORIATIONS on the glans penis and præputium of men, and on the labia pudendi, vagina, &c. of women, have very frequently been treated in the moſt erroneous manner; ſome that were truly venereal, have been totally neglected, whilſt others that aroſe from very different cauſes, have been ſo carefully attended to, as almoſt to endanger

the life of the patient; by the application of ſtrong mercurials, draſtic purges, &c. Nor are inſtances wanting of perſons being ſalivated on the like occaſion.

PROPHYLACTICS.

HAVING treated hitherto on curatives only, let us now beſtow a few thoughts upon preventives. The doctrine of prevention, although it may not be coeval with the diſeaſe, is nevertheleſs of conſiderable antiquity: for the accompliſhment of ſo deſirable a purpoſe, a great variety of methods have been propoſed; many of them are to the higheſt degree abſurd, and a few only that bear even the ſemblance of probability, particularly amongſt thoſe recommended by the ancients.

DURING my attendance at the lectures of medical profeſſors ſeveral years ſince, I have frequently been much entertained at the ingenuity with which this ſubject has been handled. One of theſe gentleman has ſtrongly contended, that a mucilaginous or oleaginous application is the only topical

one that can be depended upon; and, in ſupport of this opinion, expatiated on the power of emollient and unctuous remedies in correcting or counteracting the moſt acrid and corroſive ſubſtances, by blunting their ſpicula, and ſheathing the acute angles, &c. thereof. Another profeſſor, perhaps equally learned, and probably not inferior to the former in experience, inſiſts, that a ſtrong alkali is the only thing which can effect this grand deſideratum, and for this reaſon, that in order to expel the venereal virus as expeditiouſly as poſſible, nothing will be ſo likely to anſwer that purpoſe, as a medicine of this kind, which immediately ſtimulates the glands to ſuch a degree, as to produce a very copious ſecretion of their fluids, and thereby diſlodge the enemy without either impediment or delay. With equal plauſibility, acids have been recommended by ſome, and ſpirits by others; not conſidering that the pain, &c. ariſing therefrom, would frequently injure as much, and perhaps ſometimes more, than the diſeaſe which they were intended to guard againſt.

VERY numerous have been the advocates for mercurial preparations, whilſt ſeveral have given the preference to thoſe of lead. Every man of experience, however, muſt acknowledge that theories in general (how ſpecious ſoever they may appear) are, the major part of them, extremely defective, when put to the teſt. I have myſelf ſeen a number of various experiments made on the preſent ſubject; indeed the line of practice in which for many years I have been materially engaged, has enabled me to proſecute an enquiry of this kind to as great an extent as moſt men: and after all, I am perſuaded that very gentle ſtimulants* will anſwer the purpoſe more effectually than applications of any other ſort; I am led to be of ſuch an opinion from the very great ſucceſs that has attended this mode of preſervation for ſeveral years paſt; thoſe of my patients who have made the proper and timely uſe of a compoſition of this kind, have not been infected, I believe, once in fifty times upon an average; which conſidering all circumſtances, is as much as can

* A weak ſolution of metallic ſalts.

reaſonably

reaſonably be expected. Were I to aſſert that any medicine or preparation is infallible, I ſhould pay no great compliment to the underſtanding of my readers, by advancing ſo palpable a falſehood; ſuffice it to obſerve, that ſome of my friends entertain the higheſt opinion of this compoſition, from the great and repeated riſks they have ran for many months ſucceſſively, without receiving the leaſt injury; notwithſtanding their ſometimes copulating with ſuch as they knew to be infected at the time of action.

To guard againſt the infection, ſome practitioners have thought it ſufficient to adviſe the application of unctuous or other ſubſtances to the glans penis, in order to obſtruct or cloſe up the abſorbent veſſels or pores thereof, being of opinion, that the enemy always gets admiſſion that way: in oppoſition to ſuch doctrine, be it remembered, that chancres frequently fix upon other parts of the penis, and ſometimes attack the ſcrotum and its vicinities, from which buboes have enſued, as appears in ſome of the foregoing caſes.

GLEETS.

GLEETS.

Of gleets iſſuing from the urethra, there are two ſpecies upon which I propoſe making ſome obſervations; namely, the venereal gleet, and the ſeminal one. The former is the diſcharge which ſucceeds a clap; in other words, the running that continues after the removal of infection; this diſeaſe ariſes from the urethral ulcerations not having been healed in proper time, which may be occaſioned by various means; for inſtance, by too frequent repetition of ſtrong cathartics; by unctuous applications long continued; by acrimonious humours; in fine, by any thing that relaxes to too great a degree, or for too long a continuance.

The cure is often protracted by the irregularity of the patient, who ſometimes is kind enough to impute it to the miſmanagement of his ſurgeon; and, on the other hand, it may ſo happen, as to be really the caſe.

Some of the reaſons aſſigned for the difficulty of curing ulcers on the legs, will hold good

good in thoſe of the urethra; the ſituation of both affording a depending orifice, or drain to the humours, which conſequently will very readily flow down thereto; and when Nature has been accuſtomed for a length of time to any particular evacuation, and the outlet thereof, the flux of humours will there be very conſiderable, and the taſk of diverting them to any other channel will be proportionably difficult.

ANOTHER diſagreeable circumſtance attending ulcerations of the urethra, is, the frequent flows of urine over them, which at times being highly acrimonious, muſt interrupt the digeſtion of the ulcers; and a part of it lodging in them, may corrode in ſome degree, unleſs prevented by proper topical applications, which cannot here be conveyed in a more ſuitable form than that of injection. And even after the ulcers are healed it will generally be found expedient to continue injection a week or ten days longer, to confirm the parts, and defend them from the urinous ſalts, which (ſhould this precaution be omitted) are

ſometimes

ſometimes ſo acrid as to abrade the new ſkin, and make the ſores diſcharge afreſh. The ſame thing may happen when the urine is loaded with coarſe gravel or ſtones, which will ſoon deſtroy the tender cicatrix; and if neglected but a few days, a defluction of humours to the part may enſue, and muſt conſequently retard the cure.

So high an opinion do I entertain of injections, that I will venture to affirm, that almoſt every gleet (unaccompanied with caruncles, or calous edges of thoſe ulcers from whence it proceeds) may be cured by injection, provided the redundant acrimony (if there happens to be any) ſhall have been previouſly corrected. Innumerable almoſt are the inſtances which might be produced in ſupport of this opinion: a few only of the moſt remarkable ones will be here introduced to elucidate that point.

GLEETS, attended with great obſtructions in the urethra, occaſioned by carnoſities, caruncles, calloſities, funguſſes, &c. (call them by what names you pleaſe) will generally require medicated bougies to re-

move them before we can expect a radical cure of the gleet. They will likewiſe be neceſſary in the removal of ſtrictures, and the callous edges of old obſtinate ulcers in this part.

As to the compoſition of bougies, great care muſt be had that nothing corroſive or very ſtimulating be introduced therein; on the contrary, it muſt conſiſt of the mildeſt digeſtives; and, when formed into bougies, muſt have a very even poliſhed ſurface, and be of ſuch temper or conſiſtence as readily to adapt themſelves to the curvatures, &c. of the urethra, and yet at the ſame time be endued with ſufficient ſtrength to make the neceſſary preſſure. The foregoing caution relative to the compoſition of bougies, cannot be too much inculcated, when we conſider the delicate texture of the urethra and its extreme irritability: no part of the body, I preſume, bearing greater analogy in point of ſenſibility, than the urethra to the eye.

In the management of bougies, more attention is neceſſary than people in general imagine; for inſtance, if too large a one be intro-

introduced, or too much force uſed, either an hæmorrhage (that very much alarms the patient, though in other reſpects not prejudicial) or an inflammation enſues, which muſt retard the cure, ſhould it produce no other diſagreeable effect.

THE diſtention of theſe parts ought to be made very gradually for the reaſons above aſſigned, as well as to avoid the pain that muſt otherwiſe be occaſioned. If the end of the bougie be ſuffered to preſs againſt the neck of the bladder, it generally ſtimulates to ſuch a degree, as to produce a ſtrangury.

A LIGATURE of ſome kind ſhould be always affixed to a bougie, previous to, or immediately after introduction, both to prevent it from ſlipping into the bladder, and to retain it exactly in the proper ſituation.

How long each bougie may be worn, will depend upon the irritation it occaſions; it muſt not remain in the urethra after it becomes painful, for reaſons very obvious. When the urethra has been habituated to

them, they may be retained the whole night, provided ſleep be not thereby prevented, or much interrupted.

ANTECEDENT to a courſe of bougies, it will frequently be neceſſary to prepare the parts with a cooling injection, and to repeat it during the uſe of them, as ſoon as the leaſt ſymptom of inflammation makes its appearance. Gentle aperients at this time may likewiſe be ſerviceable, ſuch as lenitive electuary, ſulphur, magneſia, &c. Moderate exerciſe, and a total abſtinence from acids and ſtrong liquors muſt alſo be enjoined.

As to the length of time which may be proper to continue the uſe of bougies, that muſt depend upon the degree of obſtruction in the paſſage, and the irritability thereof, together with the patient's habit of body, and many other circumſtances.

IT will not, I believe, be diſputed, that there may be the abuſe, as well as proper uſe of bougies, for ſhould they be continued long after the diſappearance of diſcharge, a freſh

freſh running will be produced, by the very means employed to remove the old one; they are not, however, to be left off abruptly; it muſt be done *gradatim*, leſt the cicatrix ſhould exceed its due bounds, and thereby leſſen the diameter of the urethra.

Men ſometimes want patience under a courſe of bougie; but the time may be greatly ſhortened by the aſſiſtance of proper injections. Many inſtances indeed have occurred, where injection has performed a cure after bougie, and every other remedy proved ineffectual. Such improvement has of late been made in this reſpect, that I do not find it neceſſary to uſe half the number of bougies which I formerly did; cures now being effected in ſo much leſs time.

CASE XXIII.

In the month of March, 1777, I was applied to by a Gentleman of fortune in the county of Derby, who had laboured under a venereal gleet for more than ſix years; in the courſe of which time he had employed

ſeveral

ſeveral of the faculty in his own neighbourhood, and made journies to town for the opinions and preſcriptions of ſome eminent ones in the metropolis; in conſequence whereof, he had uſed a variety of medicines both external and internal, which afforded him only a temporary relief; the diſcharge generally returning in ten days or a fortnight afterwards. The diſeaſe commenced, he ſaid, in the year 1770, when he contracted a clap, for the cure of which, his ſurgeon had purged him pretty briſkly, and uſed a conſiderable quantity of mercurial ointment, until the infection was ſuppoſed to be removed; then, balſamics, aſtringents, &c. &c. were adminiſtered; and he afterwards uſed the cold bath for ſeveral weeks ſucceſſively. All theſe expedients however proved merely palliative, as the complaint conſtantly returned ſoon after their diſcontinuance. The diſcharge was copious and of a deep yellow colour; I deſired permiſſion to examine the urethra with a bougie, he readily aſſented, but obſerved that bougies would be of no ſervice to him, having uſed them upwards of eleven months without

without any good effect; I informed him that I did not propoſe his wearing them, unleſs there ſhould be a very material obſtruction in the paſſage; which upon examination not being the caſe, I recommended alteratives and an aſtringent injection, the former to be continued three weeks or a month, and the latter, double that time—with moderate exerciſe, and a ſtrict abſtinence from acids of every kind; and at the ſame time to keep his body ſolutive with ſulphur or magneſia alba. By theſe means he was radically cured in the ſpace of two months, and has remained well ever ſince, as he perſonally informed me in the month of January, 1780.

CASE XXIV.

About two years ſince a Gentleman in Weſtminſter applied to me for the removal of a gleet, which had troubled him twelve years; during that time, he had at intervals taken a great deal of medicine, and of various kinds. One remarkable circumſtance attending this caſe, was, that notwithſtanding the very long continuance of the running, no

carnoſities or obſtructions of any ſort had formed in the urethra, which I aſcertained by the introduction of a bougie, previous to delivering any opinion upon it; when finding the paſſage perfectly clear, I told my patient that his complaint in all probability might be removed without much difficulty, provided he would live temperately, and adhere ſtrictly to the rules I ſhould preſcribe; namely, to avoid acids, ſtrong liquors, and violent exerciſe; and regularly to uſe every night and morning a ſyringeful of injection. Theſe he did; and was perfectly cured in the courſe of three months.

CASE XXV.

A NOBLE LORD, in the month of May, 1778, ſent for me, on account of a gleet attended with a ſmall obſtruction in the urethra: he informed me that his diſorder was of four years ſtanding, and had reſiſted every means preſcribed for its removal; that he had taken a variety of medicines, been once ſalivated, and had uſed bougies. The diſcharge was thin, yellow, and copious, unaccompanied with either pain or inflammation.

tion. As his Lordſhip was of a good habit of body, I did not preſcribe any internal remedies, but truſted wholly to injection, which in the ſpace of ſix weeks effected a radical cure.

N. B. The ſame regimen was obſerved as in the preceding caſe, and the injection was uſed three times each day.

CASE XXVI.

A STATIONER in Weſtminſter, three years ago, applied to me, in conſequence of a gleet, with a ſmall caruncle in the urinary canal, which complaint he had laboured under upwards of five years, and during that time had uſed various medicines, but they had all proved ineffectual; he was however, perfectly cured in leſs than two months, merely by the uſe of injection.

CASE XXVII.

I WAS conſulted about two years ſince by a Coal-merchant in the county of Middleſex,

who had then contracted a virulent gonorrhæa, in addition to an old gleet with which he had been troubled for ſome years. He expreſſed much concern at this accident, imagining that the gleet would be a great impediment to the cure of the gonorrhæa; but I ſoon made him eaſy on that head, by obſerving, that probably both complaints would be removed at the ſame time, as I had very frequently been fortunate enough to cure clap and gleet both together: and indeed it ſo happened in this caſe, at the end of five weeks, by means of injection and an alterative apozem.

CASE XXVIII.

About ſeventeen months ago, an Iriſh Peer became my patient; his caſe was a venereal gleet, with which he had been afflicted many years: bougies as well as internal medicines had been repeatedly uſed without ſucceſs. Upon examination I found a ſmall carnoſity in the urethra, from which iſſued a moderate quantity of yellow matter. I propoſed injection, but he at firſt objected to it, alledging

alledging his having tried it without effect; not conſidering (as I obſerved to him) that the compoſition of injections was as likely to vary as that of any other remedy. I likewiſe related to him ſome inſtances wherein that mode of cure had been particularly ſucceſsful after every other had proved the reverſe. He thereupon agreed to put it once more to the teſt, but was obliged to defer it for a few weeks on account of a long journey he was the next day to ſet out upon. In the courſe of a month his Lordſhip returned, and then informed me that my attendance was doubly neceſſary to him; having, on the journey, added a clap to the old diſorder. The running was plentiful, and accompanied with a heat of urine and chordee.

I IMMEDIATELY recommended the uſe of injection and a few alterative pills, which, with a proper regimen, perfectly cured him of both clap and gleet in the ſpace of thirty-two days.

FROM the number of caſes that I have ſeen ſimilar to the preceding ones, where a

freſh infection has been engrafted upon an old gleet, and the little difficulty generally experienced in removing both together, I am led to believe, that in many inſtances, the ſtimulus produced by the venereal virus, has frequently contributed to accelerate the cure of the gleet; and particularly ſo, when it fixes immediately upon the old ulcer; whoſe callous edges may thus be removed more ſpeedily perhaps than by any other means.

A VERY ſtriking inſtance of this kind will be found in the ſubſequent caſe.

CASE XXIX.

FOUR years ſince a Linen-draper in the City, after having ineffectually employed ſeveral gentlemen of the faculty for the removal of a venereal gleet which had troubled him eight years, made application to me for the ſame purpoſe. I examined the urethra with a bougie, and found very little obſtruction therein; I then inquired into the different methods of cure that had been adopted by his other ſurgeons, to which he replied, that

that after going through ſeveral mercurial courſes, taking a great quantity of balſamics, and uſing a variety of aſtringents internally as well as topically, bougies were at laſt recommended; and notwithſtanding the uninterrupted application of them for ſome months, and the ſtricteſt regimen at the ſame time being obſerved, the diſeaſe ſtill maintained its ground. Upon further enquiry, I found that my patient was a very temperate man, and rather of a cold phlegmatic habit; I therefore judged that an alteration in his mode of living might be of uſe, and accordingly preſcribed half a pint of good port wine to be taken every day after dinner, and twice or thrice that quantity after ſupper. I likewiſe ordered an injection to be uſed night and morning, and a few internal alteratives. This plan was purſued for a fortnight or three weeks without producing any very material alteration in the diſeaſe; his ſpirits and appetite however were greatly benefited, inſomuch, that in the courſe of a week or ten days longer perſeverance therein, he was induced once more to pay his devoirs at the ſhrine of Venus, and there again became a burnt-

burnt-offering, having then acquired both clap and chancres. His reward for ſtealing fire (if it may be deemed a theft) differed widely from that which Prometheus experienced; for, to his great joy and ſurpriſe, the old inveterate gleet was radically cured by the means uſed to remove the gonorrhæa and chancres, in the courſe of twenty-eight days.

It may be aſked, whether no ſuccedaneum, can be invented to anſwer the purpoſe as well as venereal matter? To which I ſhould only give this anſwer, let future experiments and obſervations aſcertain that point. It may likewiſe be ſuggeſted, that the ſuppoſed advantages accruing from this freſh infection, do not abſolutely ariſe therefrom, but from the medicines uſed in conſequence of it, which may ſo correct the latent acrimony of the blood and juices, as to effect a cure merely by that circumſtance. My reply to this will be, that I have adminiſtered the ſame kind of medicines, and for a longer time in ſome of theſe caſes, previous to the new infection. It may then perhaps be ſaid, that they were not continued long enough; be

be it ſo; or at this rate we might go on *ad infinitum*, and never put a period to our ſuppoſitions; we will therefore leave to practice inſtead of theory, the determination of this matter.

CASE XXX.

I WAS conſulted a few years ago by the Captain of a marching regiment, who had been afflicted many years with obſtructions in the urethra—they were particularly diſtreſſing to him during the late war, occaſioning repeated ſuppreſſions of urine, which at length became ſo frequent, as to oblige him to carry a ſmall catheter, or a bougie generally in his pocket; unluckily, however, he was unprovided in that reſpect once upon a forced march, when being attacked with a total ſuppreſſion of urine, and having no aſſiſtance at hand, he was under the neceſſity of taking a ſmall twig from a tree, and after properly ſhaping, forced it through the obſtructions into the bladder, made a paſſage for the urine, and thereby ſaved his life, which had often been in the moſt imminent danger from the ſame cauſe.

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At the time he applied to me the urethra was ſo much obſtructed with caruncles, that I found great difficulty in paſſing the ſmalleſt bougie, and therefore recommended the immediate application of them: his anſwer was, "That if no other means were uſed he was very certain no cure would be obtained, having worn bougies at times for ſome years paſt." I replied, "That internal remedies were likewiſe indiſpenſably neceſſary in his caſe, by reaſon of the very high degree of ſcurvy with which he was moſt evidently infeſted; his body being almoſt covered with puſtules, boils and ſcabs, the rankeſt of the kind that I had ever ſeen. Very powerful antiſcorbutics were therefore liberally adminiſtered during the whole courſe of bougie, in order to correct that acrimony, which would otherwiſe have much impeded, if not entirely prevented the formation of a proper cicatrix. The diſcharge from the urethra was very plentiful for the firſt three weeks, and from its ſharpneſs ſometimes inflamed the glans penis and præputium as well as the urinary duct, but was kept within bounds by the uſe of emolient and cooling injections. Thus, was the urethra entirely

cleared

cleared of obſtructions, the body of its acrimonious humour, and in leſs than four months the patient's health perfectly re-eſtabliſhed.

CASE XXXI.

A MEMBER of the Houſe of Commons, about a year ago, ſent for me on account of an obſtruction in the urethra, which had troubled him ſome years, and of late produced a frequent inclination to make urine, though it could flow now only in a very ſmall ſtream, and with much difficulty, from the increaſed ſize of the carnoſity. The obſtruction was ſo great, that it would not admit the ſmalleſt bougie to paſs it; I therefore contented myſelf with introducing one up to the caruncle, upon which it made a gentle preſſure, being properly fixed with a ligature: I gave directions for its being retained in the ſame poſition as long as poſſible, that the bougie might gradually either inſinuate itſelf through this fleſhy ſubſtance, or elſe ſlip paſt it. My patient perſevered in the method I had propoſed for the ſpace of near eleven hours, when he had the ſatisfaction of perceiving that the

obſtruction gave way to the bougie. A ſmall hæmorrhage enſued, which in a few minutes ceaſed of itſelf—ſoon afterwards he attempted to make urine, but at firſt found the paſſage more obſtructed than uſual; however, upon ſtraining, he forced out ſomething, which he imagined was coagulated blood, but on examination, it proved to be the carnoſity itſelf—in ſhape and ſize it nearly reſembled a pea, and was compoſed of a tough membranous ſubſtance—the baſis of it was very ſmall, as will be readily conceived from its being ſo eaſily ſeparated. The unuſual frequency of making water immediately ceaſed upon the removal of the excreſcence, which without doubt had ſo ſtimulated the parts as to be the occaſion of it; upon the ſame principle I preſume as any extraneous body would have done. Aſtringent injections now became neceſſary to procure a firm cicatrix; bougies were likewiſe frequently introduced to preſerve the natural diameter of the urethra in that particular part; and, in order to confirm the cure, theſe applications were continued about a week or ten days.

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CASE XXXII.

A TRADESMAN in Weſtminſter, was for ſeveral weeks incommoded with a frequent deſire to void urine, which at length encreaſed to ſuch a degree as to prevent his attendance on buſineſs: thus circumſtanced, he became my patient. Upon enquiry, I found that he had not been ſubject to either gravel or ſtone, nor was there any reaſon to ſuſpect that infection had given riſe to the complaint. I then propoſed to examine the urethra with a bougie, but was prevented by a wart juſt within the orifice; that excreſcence I removed with ſciſſars, and deſtroyed its roots with an eſcharotic. The patient informed me next day that he no longer felt any irritation at the neck of his bladder, nor had any inclination to urine oftener than he uſually did before the diſorder took place. The parts ſoon healed; and he has been free from ſtrangury ever ſince.

HERE we may obſerve, that a diſeaſe at one end of the urethra, will produce a diſ-

agreeable ſenſation at the other. It frequently happens that a ſtone in the bladder, when it preſſes in a particular direction, will create ſuch an itching at the glans penis and præputium, that the patient cannot refrain from rubbing and pulling thoſe parts.

EXCRESCENCES in the urethra ſometimes affect very materially the ſeminal ducts, as will appear in ſome of the following caſes.

IT often occurs, even in claps, that the patient thinks his diſeaſe ſeated in one part of the urethra, when it happens to be in another: indeed we cannot wonder at the many inſtances of very great ſympathy in theſe parts, when we conſider their exquiſite ſenſibility.

CASE XXXIII.

A GENTLEMAN in the county of Norfolk, had many years laboured under a difficulty of making urine, occaſioned by excreſcences in the urethra, the conſequence of a long continued gleet. He had had frequent ſuppreſ-

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ſions of urine after violent exerciſe, hard drinking, or exceſſes of any kind; this he deemed merely a temporary inconvenience, it having generally been ſoon removed by the introduction of a catheter or a bougie: which circumſtance rendered him negligent as to the making of proper application for a radical cure. However, he at laſt ſuffered very ſeverely for his inattention, as will appear in the ſequel. In the month of June, 1777, being very much heated with exerciſe and high living, he was attacked by his old complaint, (the ſuppreſſion of urine) and recourſe was immediately had to the former expedients, but the inflammation and obſtruction were ſo great, that no inſtrument could be paſſed into the bladder—his ſurgeon endeavoured to relieve him by the uſual means, ſuch as bleeding, warm bathing, terebinthinate, and other clyſters, anodynes, &c. but they proved ineffectual. After the ſuppreſſion had continued upwards of thirty hours, he determined to come up to town, though at the diſtance of more than one hundred miles. The anxiety and pain that he experienced during the journey, may be better

better imagined than deſcribed. On his arrival in town he immediately ſent for me: but, half an hour before I ſaw him, the urine had forced its way through the perinæum, a part of which, and of the adjoining ſcrotum, I found in a mortified ſtate. The mortification extended at leaſt ſix inches in circumference.

FROM the pale emaciated aſpect of my patient, I could not expect any great aſſiſtance from his conſtitution, which, by his own account, had been much impaired by a long ſucceſſion of irregularities. His age did not exceed forty years; in the laſt ten of which he had been frequently attacked with ſevere fits of the gout. All theſe circumſtances conſidered, I could not form the moſt favourable prognoſis; however, I was particularly careful, that my opinion ſhould not be couched in ſuch terms as might depreſs his ſpirits, being fully aware of the bad conſequences that frequently enſue from the mind's influence upon the body, eſpecially in putrid complaints. Having in theſe caſes no time to loſe, I immediately proceeded to ſcarify the parts as deeply as the nature of them would

would admit of, or as circumſtances required. After ſtuping the wound extremely well with a ſpirituous fomentation, I applied warm digeſtives, and over them (inſtead of cataplaſms of any kind) ſoft rags moiſtened with camphorated ſpirits, and ordered the nurſe to dip a ſponge in the ſame every half hour, and ſqueeze it over the dreſſings and the neighbouring parts, in order to prevent, as much as poſſible, the mortification from extending itſelf any further. The dreſſings were often renewed, on account of the urine's flowing ſo frequently through the wound.

As internal antiſeptics were likewiſe indiſpenſibly neceſſary, I preſcribed an electuary of Peruvian bark and Virginian ſnake-root, to be taken as often, and in as large doſes as his ſtomach would bear, and that it ſhould be waſhed down with camphorated julep or good Port wine, of both which I allowed him to take very freely. His liquors were moſt of them acidulated with elixir of vitriol, to which was added the aromatic tincture, to prevent its offending the ſtomach, and at the ſame time to render it more cardiac.

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There was likewiſe prepared for him ſtrong rich ſoups, and what is called beef-tea, of which he drank plentifully. Opiates were adminiſtered the firſt twelve days, and at ſuitable intervals, clyſters to keep his bowels in a proper ſtate. By theſe means the progreſs of the mortification was ſoon impeded, and in a ſhort time entirely ſtopped. The ſloughs began to ſeparate in the courſe of twelve days, when I thought it adviſeable to attempt regaining the natural paſſage for the urine, the whole of which conſtantly flowed through the wound ever ſince it had firſt made an outlet that way. The caruncles in the urethra made ſo much reſiſtance, that four days elapſed before the ſmalleſt bougie could be paſſed through them; but as ſoon as that point was gained, a bougie was conſtantly kept in the urethra both night and day. The urine by this method ſoon recovered the natural channel, and in leſs than a fortnight, not a drop of it paſſed through the wound, which now digeſted well, and in a few days incarned, and ſoon after cicatriſed, as kindly as could have been expected. By continuing the bougies ſix weeks longer, the

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urethra was entirely cleared of all its obſtructions, and the parts firmly healed, ſoon afterwards, my patient returned to the country in high ſpirits, and in a much better ſtate of health than he had been for many preceding months.

SEMINAL GLEET.

HAVING hitherto made little or no mention of the ſeminal gleet, I will now offer a few obſervations upon the original of that diſeaſe, and produce ſome particular caſes both to illuſtrate the ſubject, and recommend a method of cure that has frequently ſucceeded after every other had proved ineffectual.

THAT ſeminal gleets or weakneſſes (call them by which name you pleaſe) are of all others, the moſt difficult to cure, I preſume, will not be controverted by any experienced practitioner; this difficulty will be encreaſed in proportion to the immediate cauſe of the diſeaſe, and the contingencies that may attend it, the habit of body, mode of living, climate, profeſſion or occupation, &c. of the

patient. The diſeaſe may ariſe from thoſe excreſcences in the urethra, which we term caruncles, carnoſities, &c. and it is ſometimes occaſioned by the deſtruction of that natural caruncle, the *caput gallinaginis urethræ*. It originates likewiſe from an acrimonious ſtate of the blood and juices. Sometimes it is produced by a general relaxation of the whole frame, from whatever cauſe ſoever that may take its riſe, whether from a ſeries of debaucheries, exceſſive venery, ſelf-pollution, &c. &c.

In ſome of the foregoing caſes, I have demonſtrated that an excreſcence in the urethra will ſtimulate the bladder (though at the diſtance of ſome inches) to ſuch a degree as to bring on a frequent inclination to evacuate its contents; and when that ſtimulus happens to fix upon the ſeminal ducts, the reſervoirs, or the teſticles themſelves, ſimilar effects muſt naturally be expected. After the ſeminals have been thus ſtimulated for a length of time, their retentive faculties muſt indubitably become ſo much impaired and weakened, as to admit of very frequent

frequent and involuntary emiſſions. The ſame conſequences may alſo be expected, when the blood is much impregnated with acrimony of any kind, and a conſiderable ſhare of it falls upon any particular organ (a gland for inſtance, or its excretory duct) the irritation thereby produced muſt excite an unnatural ſecretion, as well as expulſion of that particular fluid, and will at the ſame time alter the quality of it. A long continued repetition of this ſtimulus gradually relaxes the mouths of the excretory ducts, together with their valves or ſphincters, thoſe natural obſtacles to involuntary evacuations; in fine, they entirely loſe their original powers of retention, and the fluid is frequently diſcharging itſelf, almoſt as ſoon as ſecerned; or upon the leaſt exertion in making urine or going to ſtool, ſuppoſing the ſeminal veſſels to have been thus viſited by the acrimonious humour.

CASE XXXIV.

An Officer in the Navy after having laboured under a ſeminal gleet for ſix years and upwards, put himſelf under my care a-

bout two years and a half ſince. His ſpirits, ſtrength, appetite, &c. were greatly reduced, inſomuch that he was threatened with a total loſs of virility. After interrogating him as to the cauſe of the diſeaſe, I examined the urethra with a bougie, and found it perfectly free from obſtruction: I then inſpected the colour and conſiſtence of the diſcharge, and ſoon perceived that it had loſt its natural texture, and ſeemed to abound with acrimony, which upon further enquiry proved to be ſcorbutic. He informed me that he had been much afflicted with the ſcurvy for ſome years previous to the appearance of his preſent complaint. Having now inveſtigated the cauſe of the diſeaſe, I had but little difficulty to apprehend in performing the cure of it; as my patient, from his appearance as well as promiſes, perſuaded me, that nothing on his part would be wanting for the completion of it. I had not formed a wrong conjecture; for with the greateſt regularity and attention he perſevered in a courſe of antiſcorbutics, which in a few months entirely removed his gleet, and at the ſame time perfectly reeſtabliſhed his health in every other reſpect.

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CASE XXXV.

A GENTLEMAN in the county of Middleſex, applied to me two years ago, on account of a ſeminal gleet, to which at times he had been for ſome years ſubject, though at intervals entirely free from it; his vigour therefore was not very much impaired thereby, but as the returns of the complaint, had of late been more frequent than uſual, he began to be very apprehenſive of conſequences. Upon examination, I found that the cauſe of this gleet might be truly deemed arthritic; it was indeed ſufficiently evident from the appearance of the diſcharge, and the patient's own account of his caſe. The ſemen was loaded with a cretaceous matter, ſimilar to the chalk ſtones produced by the gout; in proof of which he informed me that he had been afflicted with the gout many years, chalk ſtones had appeared on his feet, but that no more of them had formed after the cretaceous matter found its way to the ſpermatic veſſels, and (as he very rationally ſuppoſed) diſcharged itſelf with the ſemen ever ſince that period. Being perfectly ſenſible

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that the diſeaſe originated from the gout, I recommended patience, and a reſignation to his fate. The preſcription not ſatisfying him, I promiſed to conſider further upon his caſe, and exert my beſt abilities to ſerve him. After a little reflection, there occurred to my memory the caſe of a gentleman, who ſome years ſince employed me to cure him of the venereal diſeaſe, and as he was greatly afflicted with the gout, requeſted very earneſtly that I would not give him the leaſt particle of mercury; I acquieſced therewith, and in the courſe of a few weeks removed his complaint, merely by the uſe of vegetables.

Some time afterwards he informed me, that theſe medicines had ſo purified his blood and juices, that the gout had not viſited him ſo frequently as uſual, and the paroxyſms were much milder and of ſhorter duration than they formerly had been. He has therefore taken the medicine ſince that time as an anti-arthritic. The recollection of this circumſtance induced me to adminiſter remedies of a ſimilar kind for the cure of this arthritic gleet; and I had ſoon the ſatisfaction

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of perceiving that the diſcharge gradually decreaſed, and was leſs and leſs impregnated with the chalk, until it entirely diſappeared, which happened in about two months: I adviſed nevertheleſs a continuance of the medicines ſome time longer in order to prevent a relapſe. The medicines uſed upon this occaſion were, diuretics and diaphoretics, in the compoſition of which, camphor was no inconſiderable ingredient.

BEFORE we diſmiſs the ſubject, it may not be improper to mention ſome other diſorders, to which the organs of generation are liable from this arthritic acrimony. I have been informed, from very good authority, of priapiſms originating from the ſame ſource; one in particular, of a gentleman in the county of Surry, which is ſaid to have continued an incredible length of time. Inſtances I have myſelf ſeen where the gout had produced tumefactions of the teſticles, to as high a degree as thoſe in venereal caſes, and which, like them, have been removed by diſcutient fomentations, and emollient cataplaſms, aſſiſted with powerful ſudorifics internally.

internally. In theſe caſes opiates likewiſe may repeatedly be adminiſtered to very great advantage.

CASE XXXVI.

About eighteen months ſince, I was conſulted by an eminent Artiſt in the vicinity of London, who had for many years been troubled with a gleet and obſtructions in the urinary paſſage, occaſioned by a clap, which was contracted eleven years before. There had been, ever ſince that period, a diſcharge of yellowiſh matter that might be ſaid to ebb and flow, being very copious at one time, and quite the reverſe at others; exceſs of any kind, never failed to encreaſe it very conſiderably. Within the laſt three years he perceived the urethra to be materially obſtructed, and from that time a new ſymptom made its appearance, namely, a mixture of ſemen with the old running; in proportion to the encreaſe of the caruncles, the ſeminal diſcharge became more plentiful, inſomuch, that during the laſt four or five months, he very ſeldom made urine or went to ſtool, without a conſi-

a conſiderable quantity of ſeed being evacuated at the ſame time. He informed me of his having taken large quantities of the moſt bracing and ſtrengthening medicines, but with no other effect, than a temporary palliation of the ſymptoms. The long continuation of the diſeaſe, added to a cloſe attention to buſineſs, made terrible havock with his conſtitution, reduced him almoſt to a ſkeleton, and relaxed his nerves to ſuch a degree, as to render life burthenſome in the extreme. The excreſcences had ſo choaked up the urethra, that the ſmalleſt bougie could not be paſſed without great difficulty. I began his cure, by attempting to remove theſe obſtructions, being fully convinced that no medicine could be of uſe till that was effected. I adviſed him to wear a bougie both night and day, and for as many hours together as the parts would admit of, without occaſioning pain or loſs of reſt. His bowels were at the ſame time kept in proper order by the uſe of gentle aperients: to which circumſtance it will always be found indiſpenſably neceſſary to attend in every complaint of this nature,

both in order to prevent inflammation, and to obviate any material exertion in the evacuation of the fæces. His diet was of the moſt nutritious kind, but as he at firſt had little or no appetite, I gave him ſtrong decoctions of the woods, which ſoon procured one, and at the ſame time corrected any latent acrimonious humours: after which, corroborants and reſtoratives were adminiſtered with the greateſt ſucceſs. By theſe means, at the expiration of four months, he was ſo far recovered as to imagine himſelf cured; the medicines however were continued ſeven or eight weeks longer, by which time his health was perfectly reeſtabliſhed.

CASE XXXVII.

Almost ſimilar to the preceding caſe, was that of a Gentleman in the county of Cambridge, who had been afflicted for ſeveral years with a ſeminal gleet, and had taken a great quantity of medicines of different kinds, without receiving any material benefit—a circumſtance not to be wondered at, when we conſider that the cauſe

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of the diſeaſe had not hitherto been underſtood, no attention having been paid to a caruncle in the urethra, which at laſt encreaſed ſo much, as almoſt entirely to prevent the paſſing of his urine; upon this account it was that he made application to me, having long before given up all expectation of removing the ſeminal gleet, every effort for that purpoſe having ſo repeatedly proved abortive. Luckily however, the ſtoppage of urine obliged him to have recourſe to the only method that could poſſibly remedy his old diſorder. By uſing bougies, the urethra was cleared of obſtruction in the courſe of a few weeks, in conſequence of which, the ſeminal diſcharge gradually abated, and with the aſſiſtance of ſome internal bracers, a radical cure was effected in leſs than five months.

CASE XXXVIII.

A GENTLEMAN in the weſtern part of England, became my patient three years ſince, in conſequence of a ſeminal weakneſs or gleet, which had been his companion for thirteen years, and was at length very near

putting a period to his exiſtence, notwithſtanding a long continued uſe of the moſt powerful reſtoratives both in medicine and diet, which had been preſcribed for him by ſeveral eminent practitioners.

He had taken aſtringents, balſamics, ſtrengtheners and bracers of almoſt every kind, large quantities of bark, ſteel, ginſang, &c. &c. nor was the cold bath omitted, which in the beginning, he ſaid, afforded a temporary relief, but after a few months uſe entirely loſt its effect. The diſeaſe had rendered him ſo weak, as to be ſcarce able to walk or ſtand upright, and his ſpirits were likewiſe proportionably depreſſed. He informed me, that his preſent complaints took their riſe from a clap contracted upwards of thirteen years ſince, that it was not attended with much pain or inflammation, nor were any of the ſymptoms ſuch, as indicated any high degree of virulence; his ſurgeon however, had ſupplied him very liberally with mercurials and draſtic purges, and had continued them ſome weeks, by which means his appetite,

ſtrength,

ſtrength, &c. were much impaired, and a gleet enſued, which from a venereal, degenerated into a ſeminal one. Frequent nocturnal emiſſions of ſemen interrupted his ſleep, and a diſcharge of the ſame kind generally happened whenever he made urine or went to ſtool. After having given this account, he requeſted to have my opinion upon his caſe. My anſwer was; that from the long continuance of the venereal gleet, I ſuſpected ſome excreſcence had formed in the urethra, and ſhould that be the caſe, I doubted not of rendering him very eſſential ſervice. He replied, "That he did not imagine there could be any material obſtruction in the paſſage, as his urine flowed almoſt as well as ever; but that it did not paſs quite ſo freely, which he attributed wholly to the debility of the parts. However, upon examination with a bougie, I found a caruncle about four inches up the urethra, which, in that place diminiſhed its diameter nearly one third part; the reſt of the canal was perfectly free from either ſtricture or any other obſtruction; this diſcovery gave my patient much pleaſure, and at the ſame time great

ſurpriſe,

ſurpriſe, that ſuch a ſubſtance ſhould be formed without his perceiving it; that was a circumſtance, I told him, which frequently occurred, and might be very eaſily accounted for, by only reflecting upon the very ſlow, gradual progreſs of theſe carnoſities; in the preſent inſtance above twelve years had elapſed during the formation of a very ſmall one. I then adviſed him to enter upon the uſe of bougies; and that they ſhould remain in the urethra as many hours as poſſible, both night and day, provided neither pain nor inflammation enſued, to prevent which, as well as too great efforts in diſcharging the fæces; his body was kept rather in a laxative ſtate than otherwiſe, by taking occaſionally flos ſulphuris, magneſia alba, or electarium lenitivum. In the courſe of a week he was able to wear the bougies twelve hours in the twenty-four; by which means a copious diſcharge of matter was produced, and in proportion to that, did the caruncle decreaſe, and the ſeminal evacuation abate. In leſs than a month the carnoſity was removed, and with it the ſtimulus which had operated ſo powerfully upon the ſpermatic veſſels, &c. At this time I thought corroborative

roborative medicines would take the deſired effect, I accordingly adminiſtered them in as large doſes, and as repeatedly as his ſtomach would bear, his diet was likewiſe of the moſt nutritious kind, and as ſimple as poſſible, all high ſeaſoned ſauces, &c. being ſtudiouſly avoided, together with ſpirituous liquors, and vegetable acids. By the above method this gentleman was reſtored to perfect health in the ſpace of eight months; he married ſoon after, and has got an heir to his eſtate.

In theſe caſes I always recommend animal food, or a meat diet in preference to any other: and when the ſtomach is too weak to admit of it in ſubſtance, ſtrong ſoups or broths muſt be extracted from it, and taken very liberally. After meals, a glaſs or two of good old Madeira or Mountain wine may be drank, and will generally prove beneficial. Moderate exerciſe will likewiſe be uſeful, but great care muſt be had that it never amounts to fatigue. The patient ſhould be thinly clad both night and day; riſe early, and go to bed the ſame. In fine the ſame regimen may be obſerved in theſe complaints

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as is generally recommended in thoſe termed nervous.

All excreſcences or carnoſities in the urethra have not a venereal origin, that, in common with every other glandulous membrane, may certainly produce them from ſome other cauſes; among which, coarſe gravel and ſmall rough or ſharp ſtones paſſing through this tube may ſometimes occaſion them. An inſtance of this kind I remember to have ſeen in a Kentiſh farmer, who applied to me on account of obſtructions in the urethra, which could not be ſuppoſed to ariſe from any venereal cauſe, as he ſolemnly declared that he had never been ſo infected. He had however frequently voided gravel or ſtones with his urine, which, I make not the leaſt doubt, gave riſe to the excreſcences, from having wounded the membrane, which afterwards healed, but not without producing theſe fungi.

The glandulous membrane that lines the noſe, we know will ſometimes ſend forth excreſcences named polypi, independent of any venereal matter whatever.

BEFORE we close our observations upon gleets and weaknesses, let us turn our thoughts upon those which are peculiar to the fair sex.

THE leucorrhæ, fluor albus, or the disease vulgarly termed the whites, though often with very great impropriety, the discharge being at times as high coloured as that produced by the venereal virus itself. This gleet is the cause of many disorders, and as frequently the consequence of others. It sometimes arises merely from a cacochymia, at others from a *profluvium menſium*, bad labours, miscarriages, a general relaxation, immoderate venery, acrimonious humours, &c. When this discharge is very copious and of long duration, it produces many disagreeable (if not fatal) effects: it may give rise to the whole tribe of what are called nervous complaints, hysterics, &c. and may sometimes occasion an atrophy or consumption.

IT is to be lamented, that they are most subject to this disorder, who apparently are

the leaſt able to ſuſtain it, namely, thoſe of the moſt delicate frames and conſtitutions. A ſedentary mode of living, improper diet, too much cloathing, bed-warming and tea-drinking, contribute greatly to encreaſe, if not to produce, this diſeaſe: the uſe of ſtrong liquors (I am afraid) may ſometimes be added to the catalogue of cauſes.

FROM a deſire of becoming more delicate, many good conſtitutions have been greatly injured, (if not entirely ruined) by the too frequent repetition of phlebotomy and ſtrong cathartics.

THE pudenda of each ſex being generally very much benefited by cold bathing, why, in the name of common ſenſe, is it not more frequently practiſed? Women, in particular, would derive infinite advantage from waſhing theſe parts regulary night and morning with cold water, except at the time of menſtruation; as I believe that few things would tend more to prevent the diſeaſe in queſtion than theſe ablutions, if properly purſued. An immerſion of the whole body would

would certainly be preferable to a partial bath, but as the former is not always practicable, and is generally attended with great trouble and inconvenience, we muſt content ourſelves with the latter, provided it be diligently perſiſted in.

CERTAIN ſects are ſtrictly enjoined to make frequent ablutions, as a ceremony or duty incumbent on the profeſſors of ſuch religions; a cuſtom, however, of this kind, (if viewed only in a temporal light) muſt be highly beneficial to ſociety.

CAN any good reaſon be aſſigned, why the external parts of generation ſhould not be as often waſhed as our faces, they muſt certainly require it as frequently, although ſeldom expoſed to view? Courteſans (for more reaſons than one) are the ſtricteſt obſervers of this ſalutary cuſtom.

THE great difficulty attending the cure of the fluor albus, may in ſome degree be aſcribed to the very lax texture and depending ſituation of the parts ſubject to this diſcharge.

In the cure of female gleets, we muſt adminiſter ſuch alteratives as will remove any latent acrimony, and at the ſame time recommend the moſt nutritious diet, together with a proper regulation of the other non-naturals. After the blood and juices ſhall have been ſufficiently purified by the means above-mentioned; then may balſamics and aſtringents be uſed to great advantage. Be it remembered alſo, that we muſt not rely ſolely upon internals, for it will generally be found neceſſary to uſe topical applications at the ſame time, viz. lotions and injections, which muſt be compoſed of the moſt powerful aſtringents. The cold bath will likewiſe be of ſervice, where unſound viſcera or very great tenderneſs of lungs do not prohibit the uſe of it. The alteratives recommended in the former part of this Eſſay will, upon trial, be allowed the moſt efficacious ones in the preſent complaint. Opiates, in many ſtages of the diſeaſe, may likewiſe be adminiſtered to very great advantage, provided they be ſo corrected, as to obviate any material conſtipation of body.

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Of all the non-naturals, a due regulation of the paſſions muſt be very ſtrictly attended to; nay, it will be found indiſpenſably neceſſary, as without it no cure will ever be obtained; indeed, it will generally prove one grand eſſential in the cure of many female complaints.

That the vagina uteri, and its vicinities are very liable to great defluctions is ſufficiently evident from the diſeaſe juſt now mentioned, which in general does not make its appearance before the age of puberty: ſome females however, even in the infant ſtate, experience ſo great a flow of humours as to produce a diſcharge, in colour, not unlike the gonorrhœal one, and frequently acrimonious enough to occaſion much inflammation, pain, and tumefaction in theſe parts. Several inſtances of this kind have fallen under my inſpection, and upon enquiry, I have generally found that the complaint aroſe either from a ſcorbutic or a ſcrophulous humour. Emollient fomentations and cataplaſms, aſſiſted with gentle purgatives, and mild alterants, will

ſoon

ſoon abate the ſymptoms, which generally diſappear in the courſe of a few days; eſpecially if the diſcharge has been rather copious in the beginning.

To prevent a relapſe, it will be neceſſary to keep the inteſtines in a laxative ſtate, which may be eaſily effected by the uſe of lac ſulphuris, or magneſia alba; the preference however muſt be given to the former, as it will at the ſame time prove no inſignificant alterative.

THE moſt obſtinate caſes are ſuch as derive their origin from a leprous humour; one of theſe I remember to have ſeen. It was attended with a very high degree of inflammation, and required venæſection, opiates and cathartics, together with the moſt powerful internal alteratives, and external emollients. A compoſition of camphor, antimony and ſulphur, was in this caſe extremely uſeful; the cure indeed might with juſtice be wholly aſcribed to it; every other medicine having proved ineffectual.

THE cure of gleets and weakneſſes in either ſex, will generally require a conſiderable time, but if the methods I have recommended be put in practice, and properly purſued, I am firmly perſuaded that they will very ſeldom fail of ſucceſs.

FINIS.